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THURSDAY, JANUARY 8TH, 2015

'YOU WOULDN'T BE IN A RUSH IF YOU KNEW HOW COLD IT WAS!'

There was a rush to get into the cold water at Barry Island when the annual New Year's Day swim took place. SEE MORE PICTURES ON PAGES 32 AND 35

The wedding party now arriving at Platform 2...

A PROUD Barry girl has made her wedding dream a reality by marrying on Barry Island – in a truly unique venue.

The word 'unique' is often misused these days, but not this time, as the happy couple tied the knot in the Island's Tourist Railway Station!

Ellie Carey grew up in Barry Island and met James Gough, from Cambridge, while they were both working in the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff, as newly-qualified doctors.

James then served as a military doctor based at MoD St Athan, while Ellie was studying in London, travelling by train weekly back to Barry Island.

They were engaged in 2011 before James left for Afghanistan and now live together in London, but felt very strongly that they should be married or "Barry'd" on Barry Island, Ellie's home town and favourite place.

Barry Island train station caught their eye as a unique venue with no previous weddings. It took many months and a lot of imagination from the railway station staff, family and friends to turn what is a beautiful station into a magical wedding venue and a day they will never forget.

GEM photographer Mike Wilcock is a long-time supporter of the tourist railway, and has regularly taken photos there, but a wedding was a first for him!

He was there as 180 guests were taken to the wedding on a steam train and delivered on to the platform where they all took part in a ceremony, ate dinner and danced all night to some fabulous music provided by local band Los Devitos and DJ and The Kaptain.

(Continued on page 3, photos on page 10).

ABOVE: James and Ellie picked an unusual venue for their wedding - Barry's Tourist Railway Station!

Baker Mel is stocked in top London store!

MELANIE Constantinou has managed quite an achievement – her Welsh bara brith is set to be stocked in Fortnum & Mason of Piccadilly, London!

Mel started off by making cupcakes, but now her fare will find an international audience at the top store.

SEE THE FULL STORY ON PAGE 5.

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Readers' Letters

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LETTERS AND E-MAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. An email address alone is not sufficient! We will (*in certain circumstances*) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

'Council should listen to people about merger'

THE Vale Council's submission to the Welsh Government for a voluntary merger with Bridgend Council required "Evidence there has been initial engagement with the public".

The council's submission admits engagement "...has been on an informal or indirect basis with citizens".

Evidence presented was from a period of consultation on the councils' budgets, together with a focus group of members of the Vale's 50+ Strategy Forum on how best to protect council services in light of the need for significant savings.

Readers can draw their own conclusion whether that constitutes engagement with the public on this matter but it's difficult to understand why the council could not have used the letters in the local papers or comments on social media.

Perhaps it was because there is a significant body of public opinion against the council's desire to join with Bridgend.

A snapshot survey of 100 individuals conducted by a friend provides much stronger evidence of public engagement but it does not produce the desired support for the council.

Indeed, 87 per cent of respondents were dissatisfied with the council's strategy, 86 per cent were against a merger with Bridgend, and 71 per cent were in favour of a merger with Cardiff.

It looks like the council will have an extended period in power as a result of merger proposals, ie another year for them to ignore the people they are supposed to be representing.

John Donovan, FocusBARRY member.

We need facts about proposed merger

IT might be just me but why does it seem we are being stampeded into a merger with Bridgend?

The general public (which includes me) seem to be 'kept in the dark' over the facts regarding the proposed merger be it with Cardiff or Bridgend.

Why are the pros and cons not set out in some sort of table form so we can see what is on offer?

Questions such as 'Is the council tax likely to rise and by how much?' would be my first question, closely followed by 'What reduction in councillors can we expect?'

If the result is so crucial, why isn't there a vote by the populace over who we merge with, once all the facts regarding which authority will give the best all-round package to the population as a whole?

Thomas Salter, Penarth.

Fishermen helped 'lady in distress'

I WOULD like to thank the three fishermen who pushed my car up and down the Knap promenade until it started on Monday afternoon – they were three good Samaritans who helped a lady in distress.

I hope they caught a bucket load of fish; they deserved to!

Margaret Pike, Barry.

CARDIFF AIRPORT NEEDS A RADICAL SOLUTION

THEY were halcyon days when I flew passenger jets regularly out of Cardiff Airport before the low cost carriers came to the region with Bristol getting Go Airline (now easyjet) and Ryanair, while Cardiff was lumbered with BMI Baby.

Following the purchase of the airport for a cost of £53 million by the Welsh Assembly Government, Lord David Rowe-Beddoe was appointed as chairman.

He has an extensive background in industry and was chairman of the WDA, receiving a knighthood in 2000.

However, at the age of 78, he has no direct commercial experience in airport management.

At the time he said: "Cardiff Airport has potential to see passenger numbers take off."

More recently, Debbie Barbor, retired from the Royal Air Force as a group captain, has been given the position of managing director of the airport.

Where is the commercial aviation background? Since the refurbishment, there has not been a significant upturn in passenger numbers.

There has been a major investment in the airport infrastructure with a bus – the T9 – which runs empty most of the time, while 'Ieuan Air,' as it's known, continues to fly to Anglesey on a twice daily basis which couldn't break even, even if it were full.

Many Cardiff passengers have told me that it is much cheaper to fly from Bristol in spite of the parking charges, toll charges and road fuel.

It is paramount that a new approach must be found to address this issue. People's choices are made primarily on price. It is encouraging to see Ryanair returning (why did they leave in the first place?) with Cityjet and Vueling take up some routes.

What is the solution to the airport's problems?

Offer someone like Sir Terry Matthews or Michael O'Leary a commercial stake in the airport and offer him low handling charges and landing fees in return for operating 10 B737 aircraft at Cardiff with the benefit of the Ryanair website.

I would hire someone like Harriet Green, who was recruited by my former employee Thomas Cook. In two years the share price went from 12p to £1.65.

All of us in Wales would like to see the airport generate more traffic, but unless some serious, dynamic decisions are made in the near future, then a continued long-term subsidy will result in a bleak economic future.

I, and many others from the industry, believe that the current management does not have the commercial impetus to generate the business.

Coun Philip Clarke, Councillor for Rhoose.

'Thanks' for your recycling efforts

I WOULD like to thank all of our residents for their commitment to recycling over the festive period this year.

Father Christmas was clearly very kind to the boys and girls of the Vale and as a result, council refuse crews collected a record amount of household recycling over the Christmas and New Year period.

Our staff did everything possible to collect the extra recycling and composting waste left out last week. I am aware that despite our best efforts, we still need to mop up some missed collections and would like to assure all of our residents that we are working hard to clear these. I would also like to apologise for any inconvenience that missed collections may have caused.

Acting sustainably today is a gift to future generations and we all need to be committed to reducing our own 'footprint'. The Vale Council has to meet challenging recycling targets, and faces financial penalties imposed by the Welsh Government if we fail to do so.

Meeting our targets is especially important when the amount of funding the council receives continues to be cut. This is because any money used to pay these penalties would have to be taken from other services.

I'd like to thank our residents once again for working with us to ensure the service that we provide for them works as well as it possibly can.

If anyone would like more information on recycling and waste collection in the Vale, they can find out more by logging onto *www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk* or by calling 01446 700111.

Clifford Parish, Operational manager – waste management and cleansing, Vale Council

Dog fouling is a stain on town

ONCE again, our town of Llantwit Major is inundated with dog excrement.

It is on our streets, playing fields, just about everywhere! What is wrong with these dog owners who refuse to clear up after their pets?

Admittedly they are a minority, but it is a real hazard for our children and also for all residents. The council has already fined several culprits. I can only hope that more will be similarly caught in the act.

Should you happen to see anybody allowing their dogs to foul, perhaps you would be a good citizen and capture them on your phone and give it to the council.

Coun Jeff Evans, Llantwit Major.

'Ambulance wait problem needs to be sorted out

I FIND it totally shocking to hear that dozens of ambulances have to wait outside the University Hospital of Wales in Cardiff with patients. Ambulances 'hogging' outside our hospitals should not be the reality of today's NHS.

This must be deeply upsetting, not just for the patients but also the hardworking crews who must be frustrated in having to wait while unable to answer emergency calls.

They are missing their targets and all due to a lack of beds.

There may be a lot of winter pressures on our Welsh NHS but having ambulances forced to wait outside the UHW is wrong. We now need an independent public investigation into these failings and to get to the root cause of the problems of a health service that is in crisis.

It is all well and good for the Welsh Government to throw money at the problem, but clearly that is not the answer. We now need an urgent review of how the service operates and for it to be put right without delay.

We must not blame the dedicated staff for this crisis, instead the finger of blame must now be pointed at the Welsh Government. We must all lobby for improvements.

Coun Richard Bertin, independent, Vale Council.

Many thanks for supporting the Scout post

THE 1ST Penmark with Porthkerry Scout Group would like to say a massive 'thank you' to all the outlets who sold Scout stamps and collected Christmas cards, to all residents who bought stamps, and to all those who helped with the postal sorting and delivery.

Everyone's help and support has made the 2014 Christmas Scout post a huge success for 1st Penmark with Porthkerry. The funds raised will help to provide resources and activities for Scouts of all ages within the group.

Thank you again and best wishes for 2015.

Collette Raymond

Good and bad news on the environment

IT is often the case that good and bad news come together. Here is the good news first:

Mr Cameron and his gang have decided that taxpayer subsidies for large-scale solar farms on fields usually devoted to crops, will be banned as a "blight" on dear old 'Blighty', ie the countryside.

This will upset many landowners in the Vale, but it is an attempt "to preserve Britain's beautiful landscape and reduce the totality of 'black panels' in the countryside." (Liz Truss, the Environment Secretary.)

This means HM Government is binning £2m a year of grants available to farmers from the EU's Common Agricultural Policy – worth £100 per acre.

Now for the bad news:

In Llangan and elsewhere in the Vale Mr Cameron and co want to promote fracking as the answer to our energy needs.

Oh dear. Mr Cairns MP has been worried about this for some time but, as a member of Government he must toe the party line or resign/be sacked.

The 'boss' has even said that fracking can benefit the environment! How?

Christopher Short, former chairman, Friends of The Earth Cymru.

MEN CAN FACE ABUSE TOO....

BRAVO to the Vale Council for signing up to the White Ribbon pledge, but men also face physical abuse and in most cases are too embarrassed to report the incidents and these cases should also be noted.

Jane Lewis, Barry.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL JANUARY 15)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
08 Thur	08.07	9.4	20.22	9.3
09 Fri	08.46	9.4	21.03	9.2
10 Sat	09.16	9.1	21.35	9.0
11 Sun	09.54	8.8	22.09	8.6
12 Mon	10.29	8.4	22.49	8.2
13 Tues	11.11	8.2	23.40	7.9
14 Wed			12.07	7.7
15 Thur	00.47	7.6	13.19	7.6

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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'Please look at bus routes again' Pensioner's plea to the politicians

by GEM REPORTER

A pensioner from Rhoose has appealed for politicians to ensure there are proper local bus services.

Mrs Audrey Dolman (82), and her husband David, aged 80, used to be able to catch a bus on Fonmon Road, just a walk of a few yards from their house.

Now, they have to walk all the way down to the main road that runs through Rhoose to catch a bus.

Mrs Dolman said: "For two or three years, since my husband had a stroke, we have been reliant on buses and taxis.

"We used to catch a bus on Fonmon Road which was a five minute walk away. It meant we could easily make visits to Bridgend or Barry.

"Well over a year ago – and it could be as long as 18 months – the buses stopped coming up Fonmon Road.

"We now have to go all the way down to the main road to catch a bus. It is a 15 minute walk down there, but takes longer when we are loaded up with shopping."

On the day The GEM spoke to Mrs Dolman she and her husband had just returned from a shopping trip and were "soaked".

"We're tired of getting cold and wet," she said.

Mrs Dolman attended local meetings arranged over buses by local MP Alun Cairns and Andrew RT Davies, regional AM, and had hoped the bus route would be restablished.

She appealed to politicians of whatever side to work to reestablish key bus routes in the Vale.

Bridal train...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Earlier in the day Rev Malcolm Davies and Bishop Roger Sainsbury officially married Ellie and James at St Curig's Church, Porthkerry.

The happy couple are now on honeymoon in their camper van in north Wales!

John Buxton, the director of the Barry Rail Centre said: "We were pleased to host James and El's wedding reception, which also featured steam train trips for the wedding party. We wish the happy couple all the best for their future together."

John went on to say: "We have been working to make Barry Island Station and its railway a community facility by making the station available as a venue for private and corporate events.

"In addition, the station buildings feature Barry's only museum and is the location for our regular 'Vintage in the Vale' fairs.

"This year we are looking at getting a licence so that wedding ceremonies can actually be performed at the station too."

See page 10 for more photographs of the day.

Witnesses sought after burglary at Bryn Hafren School

OFFICERS in Barry are seeking witnesses to a burglary at Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School that took place just before Christmas.

On Monday, December 22, officers responded to a report of a burglary at the school.

Police were informed by a school staff member that several computers were missing from within the school.

The police said three teenagers have been arrested on suspicion of burglary and are on bail until March 17 pending further enquiries.

South Wales Police is urging anyone who may have witnessed any suspicious activity at Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School on the weekend of December 20-21 or Monday, December 22, to contact them on 101 quoting reference number 1400474913. Alternatively Crimestoppers can be called anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Annual New Year's Day swim draws the crowds

"I'm glad we dressed for the occasion!"

Barry's annual New Year's Day swim took place last week, and ANDY WICKS was on hand to capture the hardy souls who braved the icy waters! See more of Andy's pictures on pages 32 and 35.

IdeasBank wants your contributions

A PIONEERING Barry scheme is calling for everyone in the town to make a New Year's resolution to share their ideas to make it an even better place to live.

The Barry IdeasBank encourages local people to connect together to improve their community and has already generated nearly 100 ideas. They range from the flippant, such as naming the donut character figure on Barry Island, through to encouraging responsible dog owner tourism, to ideas on the Barry brand for promoting the area to the wider world.

The trail-blazing scheme in Barry aims to inspire every town or city to have its own community 'ideas bank'.

The Barry IdeasBank is receiving support from the Royal Society for Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (RSA) along with further backing from the Vale Council, Barry Town Council, Newydd Housing Association, local community group Pride in Barry, and leading software and crowdsourcing specialist Crowdicity.

Anyone can submit ideas, vote on other people's contributions at the Barry IdeasBank, at www.yourideasbank.org.uk, or be inspired by the video stories of local people sharing how they're helping to make Barry even better.

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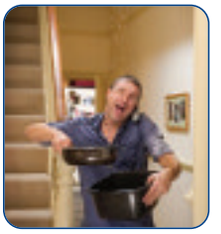

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Join Spectrum Singers... AND PUT A SPRING IN YOUR STEP THIS YEAR!

JANUARY 22 is officially the most depressing day of the year, and most people will recognise the 'Winter blues', characterised by lethargy, irritability and overeating, even after the Christmas goodies are finished.

The Spectrum Singers are offering the opportunity to put the spring back into your step by joining them, and becoming part of something special. Numerous scientific studies have shown that choral singing has a particularly powerful effect on both physical and mental health and well being.

Benefits include increased muscle tone, concentration, alertness, heart health, lung capacity and a better sense of belonging, confidence and self esteem.

Choral singing is enjoying a surge in popularity thanks to the success of choirs such as Gareth Malone's The Military Wives and Tim Rhys-Evans' Only Boys Aloud, offshoots from TV hits *The Choir* and *Britain's Got Talent*.

Larger choral societies have long been part of Penarth's thriving arts scene.

The Spectrum Singers is a smaller ensemble founded in 2001, where every voice is valuable, and the choir usually sings a capella (unaccompanied) which provides unique opportunities to sing in more initimate venues and some unusual performance spaces.

Under the baton of musical director David Hutchings since May 2014, the group has performed in support of the Welsh Proms, at local summer and autumn events and had a busy Christmas, including Penarth's Christmas Tree Festival and singing in the National Trust's Duffryn House.

Plans for the New Year include the Mayor's charity concert at the Paget Rooms and choral evensong in Bath Abbey.

"Resolutions to keep fit and get more involved make this a perfect time of year to join a choir," said Suzanne Jones who has sung soprano with The Spectrum Singers for the past 10 years. "We welcome singers of all voice parts who are looking for a musical outlet. Maybe those who used to belong to a choir but have let it lapse, perhaps through family commitments, or those who have recently moved here. Being part of the choir has led to some fantastic opportunities for me that I might otherwise have missed."

Inspired? Come to The Spectrum Singers' open rehearsal at 8pm on Wednesday, January 14, at Tabernacle Baptist Church, Plassey Street, Penarth CF64 1EN. Find out more at *www.spectrumsingers.org.uk*, Facebook, or text or voicemail 07855 718109.

Nature reserve needs a clean-up

THIS Saturday, January 10, volunteers will be needed to help remove litter and fly-tipping from the White Farm park adjacent Whitewell Road at the heart of the Colcot in north Barry.

Volunteers are asked to meet at 118, Merthyr Dyfan Road at 12.30pm. All equipment and gloves will be provided by the White Farm Conservation Group.

Everyone is welcome but please make sure to wear appropriate clothing for the weather conditions, and also wear sturdy boots.

The co-ordinator of the White Farm Conservation Group, Rob Curtis, added: "Why not start the New Year by doing some really important voluntary work? By spending a couple of hours helping us remove litter from this newly-created park you will be making a real difference to our local environment!

"Instead of just moaning about the litter, why not be part of the solution by helping us remove it?"

Festival of Winter Walks blessed by good weather

THE Penarth and District Ramblers have been extremely lucky with the weather during this year's Festival of Winter Walks but mud was the order of the day on most of them!

In glorious sunshine, 10 members were treated to a great local walk in the Dinas Powys area with Susan and Jodie the dog. They tramped the Millfields through to Michaelston-le-Pit before heading up a rough bridleway past several old limekilns to Wrinstone Farm, a muddy track uphill to Beauville Farm, which overlooks part of Dinas Powys golf course.

They headed along the ridgeway, trekking through more mud to St Andrews and into grassy meadows at Garnhill, returning via the Twyncyn.

Jan and John hosted the second walk when 13 ramblers set off in fantastic winter sunshine around the eastern lake at Cosmeston. The surrounding meadows were thick with white frost as they joined Mile Road, and heading south, they made their way along St Mary's Well Bay Road to join the Wales Coast Path.

From the Lavernock nature reserve, with its stunning views across to Sully Island and the Bristol Channel, muddy pathways through the World War Two anti-aircraft site led to Fort Road and Lavernock Point. A church there is dedicated to St Lawrence. Following the cliff path back towards Penarth, and deviating down through a housing estate, Lavernock Road led them back to Cosmeston.

Joy, Bracken and Bronte were joined by nine walkers and Jodie the dog in sunshine at Limpert Bay, in the shadow of the massive Aberthaw Power Station, built on what used to be a golf course. Scrambling across the pebbles and following the beach to the River Thaw, the path led on to Pleasant Harbour.

Tramping a frosty track towards Aberthaw Cement Works and heading along the old railway line to Pleasant Harbour, they viewed the ruins of the Limeworks.

Crossing the sea wall, a quick circumnavigation of the pebble beach and salt lagoons led them back along the path above the Leys beach and around the concrete path on the seaward side of the power station back to the start.

On January 10, meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a 12-mile easy/moderate walk taking in three Cardiff parks and Cardiff Bay; contact Sylvia on 029 2070 8758.

On January 11, meet 9am at the Barry Waterfront for a seven-mile moderate walk at Penllyn; contact Joy on 01446 737131.

Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

Joy Strangward

Choir ends year with Christmas concert

Tenor Steven James (front left) with musical director Dorothy Connell, president Gordon Mudford and vice chairman Gareth Jones.

THE Barry Male Voice Choir's busy Christmas engagements ended with a guest appearance of the choir at the (VCVS) Christmas concert at the Glamorgan suite of the Memorial Hall Barry.

The choir and the VCVS have established a close working relationship, and this played an important part in the choir's recent successful recruitment campaign

The concert marked the stage debut of tenor Steven James. Choir secretary Richard King explained: "The choir is delighted to welcome Steven to its ranks. He has already shown himself to be an enthusiastic and committed member of the choir in a number of ways."

Steven added: "It's the best thing I've done for a long time. I've been made to feel very welcome and already feel as much of a team member as I did in all those years playing football and cricket."

Special rehearsals continue to be held for anyone interested in singing but who might feel nervous or uncertain of joining a choir. This gentle introduction to choral singing continues on Monday evenings at Trinity Church Hall, Trinity Street, Barry, from 6.30pm to 7.15pm. Everyone is welcome!

Further details from website: www.barrymalevoicechoir.co.uk.

Great public response to appeal

BARRY Town Council staff appealed to the residents of Barry to help make Christmas special for the younger members of the community who would not necessarily receive a gift this Christmas, and they did not disappoint!

The council were able to raise an enormous number of gifts to be donated to 'The Big Wrap Appeal', many donated by members of the community, with a large donation made by The Book People, and donations from Buyology and Waitrose, Barry.

A spokesman said: "Initiatives like these cannot be successful without the support of the community, and Barry Town Council would like to thank all those who donated and made Christmas special for a young person living in Barry."

The gifts were donated to Coastlands Church who wrapped them and ensured they were distributed among the community.

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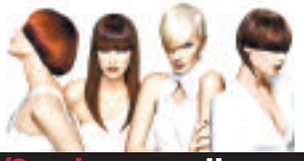
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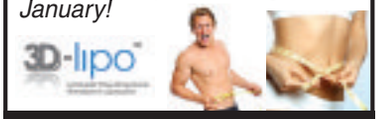

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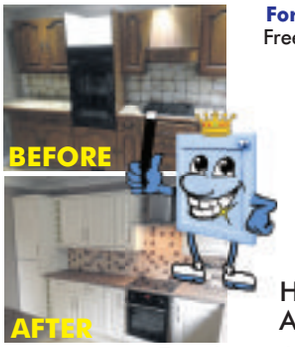

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All Saints Church captures the real spirit of Christmas

LEFT: Stars of the All Saints' Crib services which took place on Christmas Eve.

ALL Saints' Church in Victoria Square, Penarth, was delighted to welcome many people of all ages to special services over the Christmas period.

The two crib services on Christmas Eve were attended by over 360 people, with large numbers also attending the Nativity, Nine Lessons and Carols (lit for the first time entirely by candlelight), Midnight Mass and Christmas Day services.

At the opposite end of the scale, the tiny church of St Peter's Old Cogan was full to bursting for its annual 'Christmas Voices' event on December 14. Visit *allsaintspenarth.org.uk* for more details of activities in this busy parish.

Resident's concern over water feature

LEFT: Better as a seating area? One Barry resident sees problems ahead for the new Island water feature.

AS a local resident, I was surprised that the new mist water feature was not turned on when the Island promenade was reopened. I wonder why?

Perhaps its turned off for the winter. In the past the council has wasted money on several costly water features around Barry town. After a relatively short period of time, they became an economic burden.

I'm sure this time the council has learnt by its previous mistakes and made this one "environmental friendly". Electricity increases in cost annually. I hope that the water is pumped by solar powered energy. (The Princess Diana Fountains in London are too expensive to run constantly).

The mist water feature resembles the shape of an ammonite fossil. I also wonder whether the council carried out legionella risk assessment? The law clearly states the precautions needed to be taken, where there is a means of creating and transmitting breathable water droplets, causing a reasonable foreseeable risk of exposure to legionella bacteria.

During the summer, the stone blocks will warm the water to temperatures of between 20 and 40°C. The water may have to be treated to control the growth of legionella or other micro-organisms.

If the water has to be treated with regular chemical dosing agents, it could be very costly to run throughout the whole summer.

The good news is while it's turned off, it makes a nice picnic seating area and could be used as an outdoor classroom by visiting school children.

MC, Barry.

From a Llantwit Major kitchen... to a world-famous London store...

ORIGINALLY baking cupcakes from home as a single mum, Melanie Constantinou had no idea she would one day be selling traditional Welsh bara brith to Fortnum & Masons of Piccadilly, London.

However, that's exactly what has happened with her company 'Baked By Mel'. This week, the London store launched the tasty tea loaf on its shelves, baked from a little kitchen in Llantwit Major.

Mel told The GEM: "I started my baking business in 2011, originally doing cupcakes."

Last year, she received support from Creative Rural Communities, the Vale Council's rural development team.

They came up with the idea of Mel developing a bara brith that she could sell online, and the packaging they came up with reflected the rustic nature of the humble bake. Mel recently won two gold stars last summer from the Great Taste Awards.

In September, a Fortnum and Mason buyer spotted Mel selling her bara brith at Abergavenny Food Festival. He obviously left pleased and got in touch with a view to stocking it in London.

Mel's bara brith is only sold on line and is not stocked in any local store at the moment. She said: "The Wine Street coffee shop in Llantwit Major sells it by the slice, but Fortnum & Mason will be the very first store to stock it!"

Mel Constantinou has impressed a top London store with her bara brith.

A launch day has been pencilled in for January 17, when Mel will be in London, offering samples to Fortnum & Mason customers.

This will be the first Vale product to be stocked there, and could be tasted by visitors from all around the world.

Nia Hollins, of Creative Rural Communities, said: "We are thrilled that Mel has secured such a high profile stockist for the bara brith. This will raise the profile of the Vale and its food on an international level."

For more information on Mel's bara brith, visit http://www.barabrith.co/baked-mel

Bridge club's festive buffet

SULLY Bridge Club held its Christmas buffet, which was well attended by 52 members.

The splendid buffet, which was prepared by the committee, was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

If anyone would like to join the club, membership is £10 per year. Contact Evarard Kerslake (Hon Sec) at the club.

Children enjoy breakfast with Santa!

When children and parents had breakfast with Santa at the start of the Christmas Tree festival in St Mary's Church, Barry, they were joined by MP Alun Cairns.

New Year's concert a great success

The Ecumenical Seven on stage in Dinas Powys.

OVER the past 27 years, residents and visitors in Dinas Powys have been lucky enough to celebrate New Year's Day at a concert performed by the Ecumenical Seven, conducted by our retired local doctor Haydn Jones, in the very well-equipped parish hall.

This year, the performers excelled themselves. A beautiful cornet solo – 'Share my Yoke' – played by Sally Craven, received loud applause, and a further selection of music including 'My Way', 'All that Jazz' and 'Skaters' Waltz', accompanied by some young members of the audience delightfully dancing, nearly blew the roof off with the enthusiastic applause.

We were also fortunate enough to have in the programme a young New Zealand visitor to Wales, Kawiti Waetford, a student at Dennis O'Neil's Wales International Academy of Voice.

He was a delight to listen to, with a rich powerful baritone voice, his expressive face and beautiful hand movements bringing meaning to songs, such as Opera arias, Schubert, and 'Some Enchanted Evening' from South Pacific. He was accompanied on the piano by Jane Samuel, a vocal coach.

After his final song, he had a standing ovation from the enthralled audience, who then paid their own respects by singing to Kawiti 'Now is the hour' and 'We'll keep a welcome', which I am sure everyone really meant if he does come back next year.

The Ecumenical Seven made a presentation of a music stand to the parish hall, which will be much appreciated by future performers, and the evening ended with tea, coffee and mince pies served by helpful volunteers.

The Ecumenical Seven take part in entertaining at various events place in Dinas Powys throughout the year. It is important that they all know how very much we all love and appreciate them. Thank you Ecumenical Seven.

Lesley Jeffery

Absent local name in Island artwork is a real 'shocker'

A COUNCILLOR says he is dismayed that a celebrated local name has been left out of a piece of art at Barry Island resort.

Coun Richard Bertin, who represents the town's Court Ward, would like to know why the name 'Rogers' has been left out on the new 'Ynys Y Barri/Barry Island' climbing wall at the redeveloped Eastern Shelter, when the family have been involved in the resort for over 20 years.

The names include Rank and Collins, as well as others, but not Rogers – the late Ken Rogers owned the Pleasure Park and his son Ian has continued his legacy.

"What a big clanger!" said Coun Bertin.

"This family have been involved in the town for years and also have done a lot for charity. How the Vale Council have missed out this name is beyond me. I would love to know who came up with the names and who was consulted."

Christina Rogers, who is the granddaughter of Ken Rogers, said: "I am really disappointed our family name has not been included when our family have been so heavily involved with both the town and the Island."

Coun Richard Bertin said after such a long wait due to delays, it was shocking the wall was unveiled and missed out such a major name.

Councillors' surgery

DYFAN Ward councillors Anthony Powell and Claire Curtis will be holding their monthly advice surgery in Highlight Park Community Centre, Barry on Saturday, January 10.

The surgery will run from 11am to 12pm and no appointment is necessary.

If you live in Dyfan ward and have an issue you would like to raise with your councillors, please come for a chat but if you cannot attend on Saturday, please feel free to telephone or email either Anthony or Claire instead.

CC

Barry Air Cadets get airborne

The flying cadets.

RECENTLY, 12 Air Cadets of 372 (Barry) Squadron experienced the thrills and excitement of flying in a modern Puma helicopter.

The Puma aircraft of 33 Squadron flew from RAF Benson in Oxfordshire to provide the flying opportunity for the cadets as part of its routine training. The Pumas are used as battlefield helicopters and provide tactical troop and load movement by day or by night.

The aircraft can carry up to 16 passengers or 12 fully-equipped troops, or up to two tonnes of freight. The other major role is that of casualty or medical evacuation support, for which up to six stretchers can be fitted.

The Barry Air Cadets travelled to Sennybridge where the helicopter was due to land. On arrival the cadets were given a full safety brief by the ground crew before flying could start.

The pilot flew over Pen Y Fan, giving the cadets a bird's eye view of many of the hills they have walked over, as well as flying very fast across the countryside to demonstrate the aircraft's capabilities. The cadets thoroughly enjoyed their flight, judging by the smiles on their faces.

Afterwards, Pippa said: "Flying in the Puma was totally amazing; I really enjoyed the flight, it was so cool and much better than a roller coaster."

The Cadets who flew were: Sean Hodges, Jake Paterson, Steph Jones, Pippa Cowles, Jack Cowles, Rhys Horton, Mo Hughes, Joe Bailey, Alex Spragg, Jordan Saunders, Rhys Williams and Natasja Gill.

The Air Cadets also undertake many other activities including adventure training, shooting, sport, field craft, flying, gliding and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, expeditions and camps to RAF Stations around the United Kingdom.

If you have a spirit for adventure, 372 (Barry) Squadron have vacancies for boys and girls between 12 (in school year-8) to 17 years old. The Squadron parade on Mondays and Wednesdays 7pm – 9.30pm behind Adams Funeral Parlour (by the Memorial Hall) or phone the Squadron on 01446 747734; email oc.372@aircadets.org.

Fleet Air Arm officer's talk to aviation society

CRASHING waves batter a Royal Navy ship, causing it to roll and pitch in the heavy seas and, despite a moving deck, technicians still have to service or repair a helicopter.

Edward Oliver spent 28 years in the Fleet Air Arm and 17 years of that time as a Chief Petty Officer (Engineer Technician) operating with helicopters such as the Wessex and Wasp types.

He saw service on many Royal Navy vessels including the assault ship *HMS Intrepid*; *HMS Hydra*, an ocean-going survey vessel and the aircraft carrier, *HMS Hermes*.

The various environments he served in were as extreme as the desert and arctic regions of the world.

His talk will not be about how helicopters fly; they do so using the same laws of physics and aerodynamics as any other type of powered aircraft, but how they control flight is quite different.

To get a fixed wing aircraft airborne and control its direction and height is relatively straightforward.

Because of the particular requirements of a helicopter in hovering, or producing sufficient lift to fly but without actually leaving the ground, the control system has to be more complex.

With the aid of a model of a control system, he will explain how helicopters actually achieve controlled flight.

He will be speaking to the society on Friday, January 9 at 7.45pm for 8pm.

Santa pops into Gibbonsdown

THE Vale Council-led Barry Communities First, in partnership with Parkside Christian Centre, ran a free Christmas event for local residents in Gibbonsdown which included food, Christmas arts and crafts, a disco – and even a visit from Santa.

Holly Morgan, Transition Officer for Barry Communities First said: "I would like thank all of those involved in making this event a success, including our volunteers; it was wonderful to see so many families join in the activities that were on offer."

This event was organised as part of the Transition project which aims to help year-6 and year-7 students with the move to comprehensive school.

Pupils' good behaviour brings a chance to win prizes

AS part of a plan to promote positive attendance, punctuality, behaviour and excellence in subject areas, Barry Comprehensive involved year-7, 8 and 9 in an 'In it to win It' styled raffle.

The raffle was drawn on the last day of term, with every pupil having the chance to win if they had a ticket in the raffle. Of course, mathematicians will tell you the more tickets, the more chance you have to win a prize. Pupils have responded brilliantly with many pupils achieving multiple tickets through their excellent attitude in school.

The pupils were really excited to see if their hard work could pay off by winning one of the prizes. iPOD Shuffles were the first prize in this raffle. In further raffles pupils could win a bike, sports equipment and even computer tablets. But you have to be in it to win it.

AC

Left to right: Connor, Jack, Mr Williams, Ellis, Jack, Christo, Oliver, Josh, Dan, Mr Lloyd, Josh and Iestyn.

MP welcomes extra day for driving test

ABOVE: Barry driving instructors and learners celebrate.

VALE MP Alun Cairns has welcomed confirmation from the Department for Transport that local candidates can sit driving tests in Barry three days a week this year – up from two days in 2014.

Driving tests returned to Barry in 2011 after a controversial period of closure. An experimental pilot scheme launched with driving examiners based in Barry on one day per week.

Demand has since increased significantly and the waiting time during 2014 was as high as 14 weeks for a driving test. Mr Cairns wrote to Department for Transport ministe, Claire Perry, to highlight the long waiting times.

The Vale MP recently met several Barry based driving instructors and learners to welcome the news, and discuss the positive impact reduced waiting lists will have on new drivers.

Barry driving instructor Lyndon Davies said: "The extra day has been welcomed by all the instructors in Barry and around the Vale. The decision makes a great deal of sense for instructors and learners, and we are grateful for the effort Alun Cairns has gone to in helping us secure this extra day."

Mr Cairns said: "I am really pleased that learner drivers from Barry and the surrounding towns and villages will have significantly improved access to a local driving test. Taking a driving test is nerve-wracking enough, without the added stress and cost of travelling lengthy distances.

"Since re-opening back in 2011 the test facility has gone from strength to strength. The current waiting time is around 11 weeks for a test, but I now expect this to drop significantly as a result of the additional day.

"For youngsters starting out in a career, access to their own vehicle can be vitally important, as it can be the difference between refusing and accepting a job offer. It is great news for local instructors too, and I am grateful to the local organisations that contributed to such a successful project in Barry," the local MP added.

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'Music for Life' and the African Children's Choir are in perfect harmony

THE African Children's Choir (No 41) make its only visit to Wales at St David's Hall, Cardiff, on Wednesday, January 14, for a 30th anniversary fundraising concert.

They will be joined by Nia Price and a choir of 450 school children.

Music for Life is the official fundraising charity of The African Children's Choir.

A spokesman explained: "Music and dance have been proven to transcend life's difficulties. The children at the concert in Cardiff are full of vibrant energy, despite the desolate circumstances they have come from.

"To bring a similar experience to children outside the choir programme, 'Music for Life' co-operates with community schools throughout Africa to establish Music for Life centres.

"The Music for Life centres offer an after-school programme once a week that includes music and dance, arts and crafts, life skills training, homework help and one-on-one interaction between the children and centre volunteers.

"The knowledge that someone cares, and has the time to listen, has a tremendous impact on the children, not to mention the opportunity to just be kids and forget about their daily struggles for a few hours.

"The results are tangible as the quiet, shy children transform into enthusiastic, energetic children full of laughter and love. Teachers notice increased confidence, better academic performance and growing leadership skills in the children.

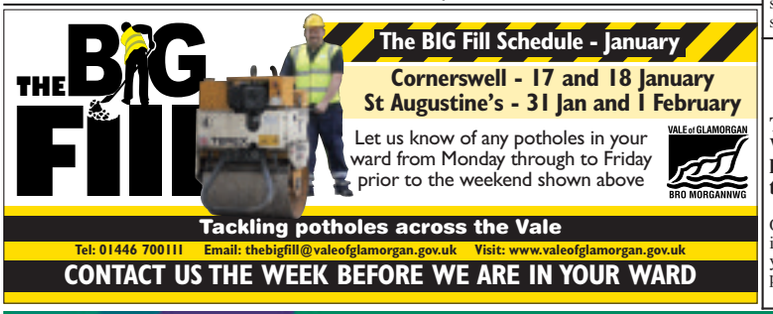
"Today, Music for Life centres operate in three countries in Africa. Each centre has approximately 50 children attending each week. Each Music for Life centre provides a meal or snack as well. For many of the children, this is the only meal they will eat that day.

"It was in Uganda that Ray Barnett first envisioned the African Children's Choir. The first choirs toured from Uganda and it is where most new choirs are currently trained.

"Uganda has benefited from many different relief and development projects over the past 28 years and is home to hundreds of children who are supported through our sponsorship programs."

Following a tour, many choir children are enrolled at the African Children's Choir Primary School on the shores of Lake Victoria in Entebbe. This boarding school addresses all the needs of former choir children during their primary education (levels one to seven).

Tickets for the Cardiff Concert are available from the Box Office 02920 878444. Further information available from Graham Ellis 01446 749659.



HOSPITAL'S AWARD

UNIVERSITY Hospital Llandough has received a Diverse Cymru award for the development of its information and support centre.

The 'Excellence for Access' award celebrates inclusivity rather than physical access.

It was given to the hospital in recognition of its patient experience team's work to involve third sector organisations in providing information for staff, patients and visitors.

The information and support centre, next to the dining hall at the hospital, offers a free, confidential information and support service, including booklets on key health conditions, a directory of services, information from trusted websites and signposting to local and national organisations.

Collecting the award, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board's assistant director of patient experience, Sheila Harrison, said: "We're thrilled to receive this award after our team's hard work in helping people to get the information they need.

"We staff the centre with members of the patient experience team and trained volunteers, but our main drive is to operate the centre in collaboration with third sector organisations.

"At present, we have a calendar of agreed dates when organisations such as Epilepsy Wales, the Vale 50 plus Forum and the Alzheimer's Society will attend the information centre, and we are hoping to build on this in 2015 by encouraging more partners to take part."

Any third sector organisations wanting to join the team at the information centre should contact Kay Holton on 029 20745692.

For more information visit: http://www.cardiffandvaleuhb.wales.nhs.uk/uhl-information-and-support-centre.

PLANNING FOR JAZZ WEEKEND...

THE next meeting of the Vale Jazz Weekend organising committee will be held on Thursday, January 8, at 7pm at the Civic Offices in Barry.

All members of the public are welcome to attend. On the agenda will be the lottery bid, youth involvement and the launch of a competition for young people to design a front cover for the programme.

Richard Bertin

Happy New Year to the People of Wales

IN his New Year message to the people of Wales, the First Minister, Carwyn Jones AM, reflected on the past year when Wales made its mark on the international stage.

He referred to the successful trade missions to the USA, Canada, India and Japan delivering new jobs for Wales and he also reminded us of the positive impact of the NATO summit, held in Newport in September, which was the largest gathering of world leaders the UK has ever seen.

Many of those world leaders landed at Cardiff Airport, and Cardiff Bay hosted the naval vessels of countries from across the world, attracting crowds to view the spectacle.

People were proud to see Wales featured on the world stage, with vital discussions taking place and agreements forged at the Celtic Manor Hotel.

The First Minister said: "The eyes of the world were on Wales as leaders from across the globe, including the first ever serving US President to set foot on Welsh soil, saw exactly what we can do as a nation.

"I was so proud to hear President Obama telling the world that Wales is a country of extraordinary beauty, wonderful people and great hospitality. I wholeheartedly agree."

Carwyn Jones also reported on achievements in 2014 which are important for the future prosperity of Wales - such as the best-ever exam results gained by our young people and the new laws we created on housing and social care, making Wales a safer, fairer place to live in.

Also, he referred to the steps we took to protect pay for farm workers and deliver a living wage for all NHS workers in Wales.

This has meant that more than 4,800 of the lowest paid employees in the Welsh NHS saw an increase in their basic salary of up to £1,056 from January 1, as part of a two-year pay deal agreement made in Wales.

The Welsh Government continues to invest in schools, communities and public services which need public spending most – for the Pupil Deprivation Grant, Flying Start and Communities First, which help the most disadvantaged people in Wales – all helping to make the economic recovery 'count for them' as the First Minister has pledged.

The Communities and Tackling Poverty Minister, Lesley Griffiths AM, has announced over £30 million to help tackle poverty and that includes £580,922 for the Vale Council to support the Barry Communities First area to promote new opportunities for Barry people and neighbourhoods.

She also announced the completion of the 1,000 homes supported by the Help to Buy – Wales scheme this week.

The scheme is on track to support the construction of 5,000 new homes across Wales and has received the backing of 148 builders as well as aspiring home owners. Alongside this scheme, we can see the impact of our Social Housing Grant, helping to fund affordable homes to rent across the Vale, including the new Newydd Thompson Street development.

Finally, looking forward to 2015, the First Minister said in his New Year Message: "Wales will not be immune to the uncertainty and turmoil that exists around the world, and as we have always done, we will give our support to those who need it most.

"Wales has a vibrant future ahead, 2015 is going to be a great year for this nation. Happy New Year to you all."

ASSEMBLY NOTES

by **Jane Hutt AM** *(Minister for Finance)*

What a load of rubbish... TELL US THE TRUTH!

WITH our towns in Wales missing their recycling targets, why are our 'authorities' shutting centres down?

Surely the money made from selling on all this recycling can pay to keep them open.

As you can see from the picture taken at The Knap in Barry, 95 per cent plus of the items we the public recycle are 'legitimate' items. Yes, there is the odd vacuum cleaner or chair (both recyclable) but this is mainly due to the inaccessibility of other sites.

Maybe our council should stop telling us it is due to 'fly tipping' and start telling us the truth. No doubt they have re allocated the funds for other purposes. It is time our councils, stop being manipulated by large corporations with vested interests in us buying more material items rather than recycle what we already have.

Where are our 'green' councillors when their voice needs to be heard?

Maybe we the public should set up our own recycle centres and cut out the middle men? While we are at it, we could also set up our own post office in the community centre at Highlight Park, Barry, as big business and their political representatives are not going to help there either.

Glyn Pooley, artist, Barry.

'PAVEMENTS NEED TO BE UPGRADED' says Plaid councillor

POORLY maintained pavements are a threat to pedestrians and need to be upgraded across the Vale according to Plaid Cymru.

Coun Chris Franks said: "There has been an unfortunate lack of investment to ensure that our pavements are in a decent condition. The result can be injury, insurance claims and more traffic.

"Plaid is mounting a campaign to raise awareness that pedestrians deserve decent, safe pavements and not to have to dodge broken paving slabs and unsafe surfaces.

"We have raised this matter with the cabinet member responsible and received a long reply that seemed to indicate that all is well. In reality many pavements are in a dreadful state.

"The Vale Council says that it wants to encourage walking and reduce the number of car journeys. However, Plaid considers that the truth is that poorly maintained pavements are a hazard especially for the elderly. Tripping risks discourage walking and forces people into their cars.

"Apparently there has been a survey of all Vale footways in the county. This survey will rank the condition against an all-Wales benchmark. There's promise of further information next year but it seems no commitment to actually do anything.

"The council states that it has a legal duty to manage and maintain all footways. I fear that the standard that is being applied is not adequate. There are financial reserves available to fund a proper programme of repairs," added Coun Franks.

The operational manager for Highway Maintenance, Michael Clogg, told The GEM that the council carries out regular inspections of footways across the Vale to ensure they are safe for all pedestrians.

"Last year almost £200,000 was spent on repairing and maintaining the Vale's pavements and footways, and the same amount is expected to be spent on maintaining them this year.

"Primary walking routes and shopping areas are inspected on a monthly basis, secondary walking routes every three months, and remaining footways every six months."

Mr Clogg explained: "During these inspections any defects such as broken paving slabs or potholes are identified and categorised according to severity.

"The most dangerous defects are responded to within 24 hours, and normal defects within 15 working days. These inspections are carried out in compliance with the National Code of Practise for Highway Maintenance Management."

He added: "Residents are encouraged to report any damaged footways or potholes in the Vale by contacting 01446 700111, or emailing visible@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk."

Autistic society coffee morning

THE National Autistic Society, Cardiff and the Vale Branch, is holding a coffee morning in Barry at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry, CF62 8DN, on Saturday, February 7 (10.30am – 12pm).

The event is primarily aimed at parents/carers of children/adults with autism and may also be of interest to professionals working with families who live with autism.

We will also be joined by representatives from NAS Cymru and also the Cardiff and Vale Parents Federation. This event is not restricted to NAS branch members.

For more information, go to www.cardiffandvaleautism.org.uk or email: nascardiff@nas.org.uk.

A fresh start for a new year

THE Vale Volunteer Bureau has a New Year message for local people:

This year, make a new year's resolution to get involved in volunteering. We have over 400 different volunteering opportunities available, and can help you find a volunteering opportunity that's right for you.

Keith Crabtree is someone who came in to see us, and is now involved with volunteering. This is what he has to say:

"I currently volunteer for Newydd Housing teaching basic IT skills to older people.

"I've been doing this since March 2014 and I'm really enjoying it. Before I started volunteering, if I'm honest, I didn't have an interest in giving up my spare time. It's a shame I didn't do it sooner.

"Volunteering has given me my confidence back and improved my self-esteem. I would definitely recommend volunteering to other people. It keeps your mind ticking over and is an opportunity to meet new people."

For further information on volunteering, contact the Vale Volunteer Bureau, 34 Holton Road, Barry. Opening hours are Monday – Friday 10am – 4pm. Telephone: 01446 421782, email: info@vvb.org.uk Website: www.vvb.org.uk.

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‘Get me to the train on time’ for special Barry Island Wedding

The pictures on this page were taken by MIKE WILCOCK.
They are available to order from wilcock60@aol.com or telephone 01446 774502.

WHEN Barry girl Ellie Carey decided she wanted to get married on Barry Island, she and her intended, James Gough from Cambridge, came up with a really bright idea.

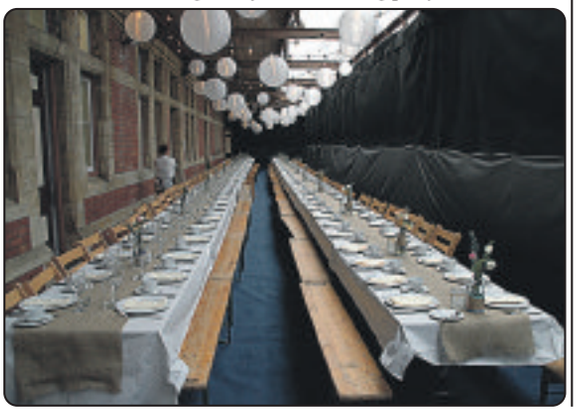
They arranged with the Barry Island Tourist Railway to hold a ceremony and the wedding reception on the station platform!

What’s more the wedding party of 180 guests were all taken to the reception by steam railway power, manned by the volunteers who operate the trains for tourists.

ABOVE: Members of the wedding party travelling on the tourist train.

ABOVE: Ellie Carey and James Gough.

BELOW:
The station platform is transformed into a dining area for the wedding party!



Wales celebrated in the 50th anniversary of special stamps

THE year 2015 marks the 50th year of Royal Mail’s Special Stamp programme, which celebrates events and commemorates anniversaries.

Over the past 50 years, the people, places and iconic images of Wales have appeared on numerous special stamps.

Castles of Wales feature several times, including Caernarfon Castle for the Investiture of HRH The Prince of Wales in 1969, Harlech Castle, Cardiff Castle and Chirk Castle.

Wales also has its own set of definitive stamps which feature further iconic images including the Welsh dragon, Prince of Wales feather and a Welsh slate daffodil.

The top 10 Welsh Special Stamps issued are:

Caernarfon Castle – 1969; Stackpole Head (Pembroke) – 1981; UCW Aberystwyth Welsh Bible – 1981; Stained glass window, Porthcawl – 1991; St David’s Head, St David’s – 1995; Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff Bay – 2000; Brecon Beacons – Brecon – 2004; Dylan Thomas, Swansea – 2014; National Assembly for Wales – 2009 (mini sheet); Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, Wrexham – 2009.

As part of the programme to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the special stamp programme, Royal Mail has launched an online gallery of every special stamp issued since July 1965, which includes images of the stamps featuring the iconic buildings and landscapes of Wales.

Visitors to the site at *www.rmspecialstamps.com* can browse through the stamps by the decade and also view the stamps that were issued in the year that they were born.

WG cash grant is aimed at deprived areas

BRIDGEND and the Vale of Glamorgan will receive more than £2.3 million of Welsh Government funding to continue supporting people in Communities First clusters in south Wales, the Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty Lesley Griffiths has announced.

More than £30 million is being invested in the Communities First programme to continue helping deprived areas across Wales.

The £31.7 million of funding will benefit 52 areas, known as clusters, and support the most vulnerable people in Wales by combating poverty and promoting education, health and economic prosperity.

Areas across Wales will benefit from the funding between April 2015 and March 2016.

Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) will receive £1,738,317 which will be split between three cluster areas: Upper Bridgend, Mid Bridgend and Lower Bridgend.

The Vale Council will receive £580,922, which will go to the Barry cluster.

Housing association’s award

WALES & West Housing (WWH) has been recognised as one of the top employers in the UK by not one, but two major UK workplace accreditors.

After a review in October by Investors in People, WWH has retained its sought-after IiP Gold status, and has achieved the rare achievement of satisfying all 196 evidence requirements.

WWH, which celebrates its 50th year in business in 2015, is one of only a handful of companies ever to have done this in the UK. It manages almost 10,000 affordable homes in 12 local authority areas across Wales, including Bridgend and the Vale.

In addition to the Investors in People success, the housing association has had more good news from the Sunday Times Best Companies process.

In October 2014, WWH staff took part in the Best Companies review for the fifth year running. Now WWH has learned that not only has it once again made the Top 100 listings, but it has also been awarded the highest ‘three stars’ rating by Best Companies, recognising WWH as an ‘extraordinary’ employer.

WWH’s exact ranking in the 2015 Best Companies Top 100 will be revealed at the end of February.

Anne Hinchey, chief executive of WWH, said: “Both of these awards are testament to how much people matter in our organisation and the contribution each and every one of our staff makes towards making us not only successful but also a workplace where people want to join, stay, develop and make a difference.”

Maesteg Animal Welfare society thanks readers

Maesteg Animal Welfare Society would like to thank the readers of The GEM for their donation of food to our charity during the Christmas period.

Their generosity is much appreciated.

We have many loving cats looking for a home. If interested please call Jan on 01656 721496 or Nicola on 01656 769855.

Jan, Maesteg Animal Welfare Society (MAWS)

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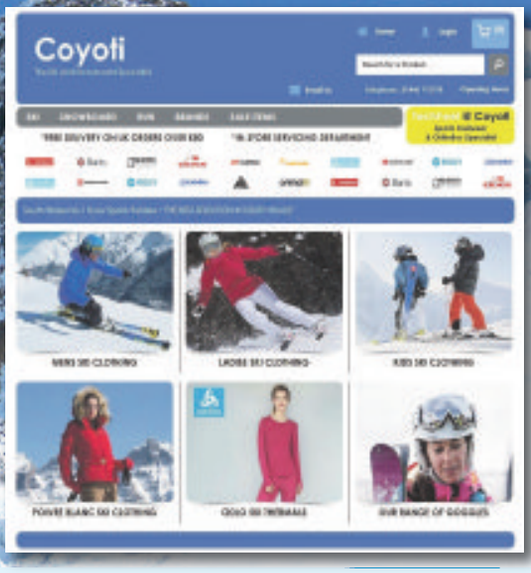

The SKI SEASON 2015

The snow is falling and the temperature is dropping in resorts all over the world - so make sure you are warm and dry this season by being properly equipped. With over 5000 square feet dedicated to Ski & Snowboard products, we have the largest range of clothing, accessories and hardware for adults and children in WALES. We have something to suit all tastes and budgets from all the PREMIER Ski and Snowboard Brands, many of which are exclusive to Coyoti in Wales.

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Guitar sessions for the ladies...

TWO years ago I put a small piece relating to a guitar workshop in The GEM and it was a real success.

Shamboogie has moved on from a small bi-weekly session to a full weekly evening at a venue offering a lot more.

This year the intention is to start a ladies only evening, for beginners and players.

We will also do an evening for small band rehearsals, folk music and jazz.

All I need is interested parties to contact me on 01446 400894.

Meetings are at the Cwm-Talwg Inn on Severn Avenue, Barry.

Harry Ford, Barry.

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The Dogs Trust seeks good homes for six mischievous puppies!

STAFF at Dogs Trust Bridgend are appealing to local dog lovers to help find loving homes for six puppies which found themselves homeless on Christmas Eve.

The adorable seven week old pups were brought to the rehoming centre in Bridgend when their owner was unable to care for them due to a change in circumstances, and handed them in to Dogs Trust to help find them loving new homes for 2015.

The mischievous pups have already become firm favourites with staff who have nicknamed them after those acknowledged in the New Years Honours list. Leading the honours are Dame Joan Collins, Sir John Hurt, Sheridan Smith OBE, Steve Cram CBE, Dame Kristin Scott Thomas and James Corden OBE.

Beverley Price, Dogs Trust Bridgend Rehoming Centre manager, said: lThese mischievous little pups are only seven weeks old and full of energy so will need homes with patient owners who appreciate the demands of young puppies and are at home most of the day to help them settle in.

"They would need homes with secure gardens to bound around in, and loving new families prepared to dedicate time to their training and socialization and help them become part of the family. They are super little dogs who would make the perfect pets in the right homes, and who after a really tough start in 2014 will be able to flourish in loving new homes in 2015."

If anyone is interested in honouring our pups with a loving new home, call Dogs Trust on 0300 303 0292 or visit www.dogstrust.org.uk.

Legion's invite for meeting

A BRANCH meeting is to be held in the Duke of Wellington public house at 7.30pm on Tuesday, January 13 which all branch members are asked to attend.

Anyone ex-military or not who is not currently a member and would be interested in finding more about the aims of the Legion with a view to becoming a member is also invited to attend.

For any further information contact Dave Morris on 01446 774520.

Dietitian thanks team after MBE

FELLOW staff members are congratulating Judyth Jenkins, Head of Nutrition and Dietetics at Cardiff and Vale NHS Trust, on receiving her MBE in the New Year's Honours List for services to people's health and wellbeing in Wales.

After 37 years in the health service, Judyth remains passionate and committed to keeping people in Cardiff and the Vale well and raising the profile of dietetics across Wales.

But the modest dietitian, who works across the University Hospital of Wales and University Hospital Llandough sites, credited her colleagues for her success in being awarded the MBE, which sees a fantastic end to 2014 for the team, which has already won several accolades during the year.

"I'm absolutely delighted – it's just wonderful," said Judyth.

"I'm honoured to have been put forward for it. But you don't achieve things on your own; you've got to have good people around you. My team is very hard-working and share the same passion and commitment.

"I love my job and I love working for Cardiff and Vale Health Board, which is very supportive of our work."

Asked what she was doing to celebrate, Judyth laughed and said she practices what she preaches – by going out for a healthy meal with family.

The chief executive of Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, Adam Cairns, said: "This is fantastic news for Judyth personally, for her team and for the health board.

"Judyth is an extremely dedicated individual and, after 37 years, has kept the motivation and drive that makes her such an outstanding member of staff.

"Well done Judyth – greatly deserved."

LEFT: Head Dietician Judyth Jenkins.

Wartime Heritage

THE Glamorgan Wartime Heritage Centre will be open on Wednesday afternoons in January, from 2pm – 4pm.

The Barry at War group also plans to open the museum on Sunday, January 11 from 11am to 4pm. It offers a chance to see recent improvements made by volunteers.

This year promises to be an exciting year for the centre. Planning is under way for a special event to mark 'Victory in Europe Day' plus 70 years' and June 20 should see the return of the Red Arrows as part of Wartime Weekend.

If you would like to get involved in a small but growing enterprise – your local museum needs YOU!

Glenn Booker
Barry At War

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MENTER IAITH BRO MORGANNWG

SEFYDLWYD Menter Bro Morgannwg yn 2013, gyda'r nod o gynyddu'r defnydd o'r Gymraeg ar lefel gymunedol ym Mro Morgannwg.

Rydym yn falch iawn o greu'r bartneriaeth newydd yma gyda'r Glamorgan GEM, ac fe fyddwn yn cydlynu tudalenau misol Cymraeg yn y papur, fydd yn cael ei gyhoeddi ar ddydd Iau cyntaf pob mis.

MENTER Bro Morgannwg was established in 2013, with the aim of increasing the use of the Welsh language on a community level in the Vale of Glamorgan.

We are very pleased to be developing this new partnership with the Glamorgan GEM, and we will be co-ordinating Welsh language pages in the paper, which will be published on the first Thursday of every month.

AR AGOR OPEN

BUSNES Y MIS: Mae Menter Bro Morgannwg yn cynhyrchu arwyddion drws Ar Agor/Ar Gau, ac fe fyddwn ni'n eu dosbarthu am ddim i siopau, busnesau a gweithleoedd ar draws Bro Morgannwg dros y misoedd nesaf. Byddwn hefyd yn cynnig bathodynnau 'Iaith Gwaith' sydd yn ffordd hawdd a chyfleus i adnabod staff sydd yn hapus i siarad Cymraeg yn y gwaith. Ydych chi'n gweithio mewn siop neu'n berchen ar fusnes ym Mro Morgannwg ac yn gallu cynnig gwasanaeth Cymraeg i'ch cwsmeriaid? Os ydych, rhowch wybod i ni, gan y byddwn yn fwy na hapus i hyrwyddo eich gwasanaeth ar y dudalen hon!

Ennill Grant Arian i Bawb

MAE Menter Bro Morgannwg wedi derbyn grant o £5,000 o gronfa Arian i Bawb y Loteri Genedlaethol er mwyn dechrau ar y broses o sefydlu gwasanaeth Cymraeg i'r teulu ym Mro Morgannwg.

Mae twf mawr wedi bod yn y galw a'r nifer sy'n mynychu Cylchoedd Meithrin ym Mro Morgannwg dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf, ac erbyn hyn mae dros 120 o blant yn mynychu Cylchoedd Meithrin yn y Sir. Gyda 29.39% o blant 3-15 oed y Sir yn siaradwyr Cymraeg yn ôl Cyfrifiad 2011, mae'r galw yno felly am gynyddu'r ddarpariaeth ac i ddenu plant, pobl ifanc ac oedolion i gael cyfleoedd newydd i gymdeithasu fel teulu drwy'r iaith Gymraeg.

Bydd y gweithgareddau fydd yn cael eu trefnu fel rhan o'r prosiect hwn yn amrywio o gyrsiau wythnosol i blant oed meithrin i ddigwyddiadau hwyliog i'r teulu cyfan, gan gynnwys gwersi nofio wythnosol i fabanod a phlant ifanc, clwb rygbi a gymnasteg wythnosol i blant 3 oed+, a sesiynau chwarae a chelf a chrefft yn ystod gwyliau ysgol. Byddwn yn gweithio mewn partneriaeth ag Adran Chwaraeon yr Urdd i gydlynu'r rhaglen, ac fe fydd y gweithgareddau yn dechrau ym mis Mawrth.

Dilynwch Menter Bro Morgannwg ar Facebook a Twitter, neu cofrestrwch i dderbyn ein e-chlysur, i gael y newyddion diweddaraf am y gweithgareddau yma.

Calendr

Clybiau Chwaraeon yr Urdd

Yn dechrau 9/01/15: Nofio (Y Barri);
Yn dechrau 11/01/15: Nofio (Penarth);
Yn dechrau 12/01/15: Gymnasteg, Athletau;
Yn dechrau 13/01/15: Plantos Heini, Nofio (Coleg yr Iwerydd);
Yn dechrau 14/01/15: Nofio (Canolfan Hebron), Tenis Bwrdd.
garetheast@urdd.org – 07557 322891.

Babi Bach

Yn dechrau 6/01/15: Bob dydd Llun, 10am yn United Free Church, Y Bontfaen;
Bob dydd Mawrth, 10am a 11am yng Nghanolfan Soft Play Coconuts, Y Barri;
Bob dydd Mercher, 9.45am yng Nghanolfan Gymunedol Highlight Park;
Bob dydd Iau, 9.30am a 10.30m yn Eglwys y Drindod Sanctaidd, Y Barri.
info@babibach.co.uk – 07739 504744.

Cymrodorion y Barri

20/01/15: Sgwrs gan yr Athro E. Wyn James am Eluned Morgan o Batagonia; 7.15pm yn Festri Capel Tabernacl, Y Barri.
r h o s w e n d @ h o t m a i l . c o . u k – eirypalfrey@yahoo.co.uk.

Adran Addysg Gydol Oes Cyngor Bro Morgannwg

Yn dechrau 5/01/15: Dosbarth Gwnïo, Dosbarth Canu, Crefftau, Coffi, Sgwrs a Gemau Bwrdd; Bob nos Lun 6.30-9pm yng Nghanolfan Palmerston;
Yn dechrau 9/01/15: Amser Stori; Bob dydd Gwener 9.30-11am yng Ngholeg Cymunedol y Bontfaen;
16/01/15: Darlith a Chinio, Tinkinswood a Llwyneliddon (gan Ffion Reynolds); 12.15pm yng Ngholeg Cymunedol y Bontfaen;
26/01/15: Clwb Llyfrau yn ail-ddechrau. Dewch â llyfr i'w drafod. 7-8pm, Canolfan Palmerston.
mnfurnham@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk – 01446 733762.

Jac y Do

Yn dechrau 9/01/15: Bob dydd Gwener, 10am yn Neuadd Fach, Penarth.
jacydo@bulbview.com – 07830 909339.

Sêr gan Eiry Palfrey

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Rydych chi'n onest iawn ac yn rhoi cryn dipyn o bwyslais ar ddyletswydd. Efallai bod bywyd weithiau'n ymddangos yn anodd, ond fe fyddwch chi'n ennill yn y diwedd.

Rydych chi'n berson dibynnol cyfrifol gyda llawer o hunan-ddisgyblaeth ac yn ymarferol iawn, ond weithiau fe fyddwch chi rhoi mewn i hunan dosturi. Fyddwch chi byth yn trystio'ch lwc, mae gwaith caled yn fwy pwysig ichi.

Mae gyda chi'r gallu i resymu, a syniad cryf o bwrpas mewn bywyd. Efallai eich bod yn ymddangos yn ddifrifol ond fe allwch fod yn gyfaill annwyl a thriw, sy'n berchen ar hiwmor sych bachog. Rydych chi'n barod i weithio'n galed iawn tuag at eich nod mewn bywyd. Mae hunan barch a chael parch bobl eraill yn bwysig iawn i chi.

Capriconiaid enwog: Menna Elfyn, Barry John, Shirley Bassey, Richard Nixon, Hedd Wyn.

Diolch i Alcwyn Deiniol Evans am rannu'r llun hwn gydan ni o un o'i hoff lefydd yn Y Fro. Ydych chi'n hoff o dynnu lluniau? Danfonwch nhw aton ni i'w cyhoeddi yn y rhifyn nesaf! ffion@menterbromorgannwg.org

LLAIS LLEOL – DULYN GRIFFITH

BOB mis, byddwn yn holi unigolion a chymeriadau amlwg o fewn y gymuned Gymraeg am eu profiadau o fyw neu weithio yn y Fro. Y tro hwn, cyn-brifathro Ysgol Sant Baruc – Dulyn Griffith – sy'n ateb ein cwestiynau...

PA ARDAL o'r Fro ydych chi'n byw?

Yn y Barri. Mae'r olygfa dros y môr ar ei gorau yn ystod tywydd stormus.

Beth yw'r peth gorau am fyw yn y Fro?

Bod yn ddigon pell o brysurdeb Caerdydd ond eto'n ddigon agos i ymweld â'r ddinas pan fo angen gwneud hynny. Yn fy achos i, unwaith y flwyddyn! Dydw i ddim yn ddyn siopa.

Dwedwch ychydig wrthom am eich swydd fel cyn-Brifathro Ysgol Sant Baruc.

Uchafbwynt fy ngyrfa yn y byd addysg ac un mlynedd ar hugain hapus iawn mewn awyrgylch deuluol a chlos.

Beth yw eich atgof mwyaf am weithio yn Ysgol Sant Baruc?

Tybiaf mae'r llu o nosweithiau 'pasiant' gyda'r Neuadd Goffa dan ei sang sydd yn fwyaf byw yn fy nghof a'r gefnogaeth di-flino gan staff, plant a rhieni trwy gydol fy nghyfnod yno.

Pa bum disgybl sydd yn aros yn eich cof?

Byddai'n haws i mi enwi pum cant! Roedden nhw i gyd yn arbennig a rhinweddau yn perthyn i

bob un. Dwi'n ymfalchïo bod cymaint ohonyn nhw wedi cadw'r Gymraeg a nifer yn ei defnyddio yn eu gwaith bob dydd ac yn Gymry glân, gloyw. Nid yn y modd 'traddodiadol' efallai ond mae eu hunaniaeth a'u brwdfrydedd yn werthfawr ac yn oleuedig ar brydiau. Mae yna rywbeth neilltuol a phrin am natur 'plant y Barri'. Fedrwch chi ddim peidio â mwynhau eu cwmni!

Beth ydy eich diddordebau?

Roedd ymddeoliad i fod i greu amser i hamddena ond nid felly y bu! Dwi'n mwynhau darllen ac yn garddio pan fo hynny'n hanfodol ond y pleser mwyaf ydy treulio amser gyda theulu sy'n cynyddu o ran niferoedd.

Beth yw eich uchelgais am y ddeng mlynedd nesa?

Gweld aelodaeth AFIAITH yn cynyddu i bum cant.

Gyda pwy fasech chi'n hoffi cael pryd o fwyd?

Yn ddiweddar bum yn edrych ar lun dosbarth Miss Roberts yn Ysgol Gynradd Pen-y-groes 1962 gyda pherthynas i mi sy'n dal i fyw yn yr ardal. Dau o'r pedwar ar bymtheg yn unig sy'n byw yn y pentref o hyd a nifer fawr wedi mynd i bedwar ban byd. Dyna i chi glec arall i dynged yr iaith. Braf iawn fyddai gallu casglu pob un at ei gilydd i gael pryd o fwyd.

Pwy ydych chi'n eu hedmygu?

Unrhywun sydd yn gweithio'n ddiflino i hyrwyddo'r Gymraeg a Chymreictod.

Beth yw eich gwyliau delfrydol?

Bwthyn yn harbwr Aberaeron yn ystod misoedd y gaeaf.

Lle yw eich hoff dafarn neu fwyty yn y Fro?

Maen nhw'n rhy niferus i'w rhestru i gyd ond tybiaf mae'r Aubrey Arms ar yr A48 a'r Bear yn y Bont-faen ydw i'n ymweld â nhw gan amlaf.

DIWRNOD SANTES DWYNWEN

Dydd Sul, Ionawr 25, 2015

SANTES cariadon Cymru yw Dwynwen. Dethlir diwrnod Santes Dwynwen ar y 25ain o Ionawr bob blwyddyn, wrth i gariadon ddanfon cardiau at ei gilydd.

Cysylltir Dwynwen ag Ynys Môn a rhoddodd ei henw i eglwys ar Ynys Llanddwyn ac ym mhlwyf Porthddwyn ei hun.

Yn ôl y chwedl, roedd Dwynwen mewn cariad â Maelon, ond roedd ei thad am iddi briodi tywysog arall. Gweddïodd Dwynwen ar i Dduw ei rhyddhau o'i chariad at Maelon ac fe roddwyd tri dymuniad iddi. Yn gyntaf, gofynnodd am i Maelon gael ei ddadmer, gan ei fod ynghynt wedi ei rewi gan angel.

Yn ail, gofynnodd i Dduw i ateb gweddïau'r gwir gariadon a oedd yn gofyn iddi am atebion, ac yn drydydd, gofynnodd am beidio â phriodi byth. Ar ôl i'w dymuniadau gael eu gwireddu, penderfynodd Dwynwen wasanaethu Duw am weddill ei hoes.

DWYNWEN-O-GRAM!

Beth am enwebu eich gŵr, gwraig, gariad neu bartner i dderbyn tusw o flodau a photel o champagne i ddathlu Santes Dwynwen eleni? I enwebu rhywun, e b o s t i w c h ffion@menterbromorganwg.org gan nodi eu henw, pa ardal o Fro Morgannwg maent yn byw, a'r rheswm pam eu bod yn haeddu'r Dwynwen-o-Gram!!

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4 WINDOWS ANY SIZE, MAX 1 OPENER IN WHITE UPVC	FROM £5.69
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8 WINDOWS ANY SIZE, MAX 1 OPENER IN WHITE UPVC	FROM £11.38
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Out and About with The GEM

KEATON AND NORTON SOAR IN THE JAW-DROPPING *BIRDMAN*...

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

IF any actor deserves to go through a renaissance then it's Michael Keaton.

Best known for being the first big-screen *Batman*, Keaton's body of work may have varied in quality, but as an actor he is always a hugely watchable presence.

His latest film, *Birdman*, sees him play Riggan, an actor best-known for playing the titular (fictional) superhero but one who wants to be taken more seriously, and so undertakes the production and staging of a Broadway play he's written, directing and starring in it.

However, his daughter and PA (Emma Stone), a fellow actor (Edward Norton) and a host of other events all conspire to put Riggan up against it from the outset...

'Meta' is a term which indicates a concept which is an abstraction from another concept, used to complete or add to the latter, or, in the words of the Urban Dictionary, 'a term... used to characterise something that is characteristically self-referential.'

The casting of former *Batman* Michael Keaton as a down-on-his-luck actor attempting to escape his superhero past and get back to his roots by engaging in a passion project on Broadway could be seen as an example of meta; casting the supposedly disruptive Edward Norton as a big shot actor seemingly intent on crashing Riggan's play to the ground with his ridiculous behaviour could also be seen as meta.

But this is just one of many layers that *Birdman* has, layers that slowly and assuredly appear over its running time, the film an intelligent, bold piece of work that can't help but engage and hold your focus throughout.

Director Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu burst onto the scene with 2000's outstanding *Amores Perros*, and since then has straddled both American and Spanish cinema with aplomb, and he is on great form here. The film takes place over the course of a few days but unspools in one long shot with no (visible) edits, and Inarritu takes what could have been a gimmicky approach and instead gives it wonderful vigour.

Never feeling too clever for its own good, the film's smart visual style gives you an immediacy and intimacy that bleeds into the story, delving you deeper into the lives of the characters who exist wholly within the confines of the theatre (excluding a hilarious sequence where Riggan finds himself caught outside the theatre).

The screenplay is one of conflict – art versus commerce, ambition versus reality, ego versus ego – fused with a sharp eye both in terms of human behaviour but also the prickly fragility of those operating under the weight of previous achievements and expectations. The battle of being relevant in the fast-moving world we live in is another theme, as is the difference, as Riggan's ex-wife succinctly points out, between love and admiration.

The character of Riggan is one that is all too real – don't be surprised to find this entire scenario playing out with some members of the Marvel acting universe in the next 10 years or so. But its poke is gentle rather than harsh, holding a mirror up to the lives of these characters, with each sharply written and fully fleshed out.

The performances are a real revelation across the board. Michael Keaton may have parlayed his blockbuster success into a career of scene-stealing smaller turns and roles in more selective fare, but his career could so easily have gone the same way as Riggan's.

Keaton uses this knowledge and experience to deliver a mesmerising central performance, and you feel grateful such a talented actor is being afforded the opportunity to shine.

Across from him Edward Norton's excellent run of performances continues, his character a theatre actor who wants to deliver the truth (no fake gin for him), but who below his surface fire and righteousness is a man not so dissimilar to Riggan; while Keaton deservedly takes the main plaudits, his jousting with Norton is a real highlight.

Alongside them, the likes of Emma Stone's flinty yet vulnerable daughter-cum-PA, Zach Galifianakis' money-grabbing lawyer, Naomi Watts' newcomer and Andrea Riseborough's chastened co-star all add valuable light and shade to what is an exceptional cast.

What is most breathtaking about *Birdman* is its inventiveness, its ambition and its ability to veer away from the norm at crucial times without deviating from the story it's telling; it may only be January, but one of the leading candidates for the best film of the year has already reared its head.

VERDICT – A wondrous and beautiful film, *Birdman* is one of those seemingly declining films that are smart, bold and inventive. With arresting performances from all, but in particular Michael Keaton and Edward Norton, and Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu's balletic and majestic direction, this is a sublime example of filmmaking. *Essential viewing*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Fight Club* (1999), *Maps To The Stars* (2014).

Toy and Train Sale draws its visitors from all over country

THE regular collector's bonanza reaches the Cardiff area again when the Toy and Train Sale arrives at Penarth Leisure Centre in Cogan, from 10.30am to 3pm on Saturday, January 10.

This will be the first such event at Cogan in 2015 but collectors need have no fear as three further dates are now booked for 2015, with the next show of the new year happening on Saturday, April 11.

The organiser Chris Dyer told The GEM: "Our venue in Penarth is second-to-none and is ideal for a toy and train sale as it is large, well-lit, easily accessed, clean and modern. Cogan railway station is next door and many of our customers make the most of the very frequent and reasonable train services, from all parts.

"We now offer in excess of 120 tables at the Cardiff show, and these are operated by more than 50 traders from all over Britain with the stock on offer, old and new, being quite unbeatable in quality and quantity.

"The Cardiff show is now firmly established as the largest and best such event in the whole principality."

Traders present on the day will also be buying and exchanging, as well as selling, and will offer free valuations on a wide range of toy and train related items, without any obligation.

They welcome any items being brought in for cash or exchange, so do raid your attics! Top local caterer and charity fundraiser Rita Limbrick and her team will be operating at the show and, as always, will offer both quality and value .

Chris added: "The Cardiff show is greatly anticipated by both traders and customers and is already fully booked with traders, with some travelling from as far away as Cornwall and North Yorkshire."

Tel: 01643 702757 and 07966 694579; website: www.chrisdyerfairs.co.uk.

NEXT GREAT SHOW...
CARDIFF TOY & TRAIN SALE
SATURDAY, 10TH JANUARY, 2015
10.30am - 3.00pm
Penarth Leisure Centre, Andrew Road, Cogan, Penarth, Cardiff CF64 2NS
Travel by Train - Cogan Station next to Venue!
BUY ★★ SELL ★★ EXCHANGE
Many top dealers in Dinky, Corgi, Matchbox, EFE, Lledo, Britains, Hornby Trains, Bachmann, Lima, etc., *and much, much more.* 120 Tables.
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www.chrisdyerfairs.co.uk

What's on and where in your local area...

AM's surgery

VALE AM Jane Hutt will be holding a surgery on January 10, from 10am to 12 noon at Barry CAB office, 119 Broad Street, Barry.

Free advice on debt

BRIDGEND County Borough's Citizens' Advice Bureau will be holding sessions at KPC in Pyle to give advice and help in dealing with debt, managing a budget and benefits entitlements.

If you would like to book a slot at the sessions which will run on a Thursday between 1pm and 3pm call Alison on 01656 749219.

The sessions will run fortnightly, and from February will run on the first and third Thursday of each month.

Ty Hafan lottery winners draw

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan lottery draw number D860: the rollover of £1,500 was not won this week.

£2,000: 964121.

£10: 803544, 728354, 765076, 243256, 377965, 302496,521564,4 24758, 237113, 144233, 784475, 402142, 177604, 368930, 783123, 189260, 260651, 341420, 532626, 1560.

£5: 135379, 262959, 431874, 625958, 397220, 570955, 866244, 373530, 810118, 536820, 458266, 689616, 856670, 512449, 564818, 455958, 657427, 815141, 883155, 427793, 343190, 293388, 781562, 297029, 780055, 929045, 262660, 980188, 503417, 261678, 418180, 197078, 224297, 519559, 904032, 860303, 974235, 819131, 184923, 110020, 762192, 528531, 123303, 571517, 275475, 696394, 254337, 184968, 906456, 639807, 226409, 124489, 823775, 608769, 648039, 284013,929768, 664800, 1926, 1431.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

Cadets hold prize-giving

2426 (Pencoed and District) Squadron ATC holds its annual prize giving ceremony and winter ball on Saturday, January 10 at 7pm.

Venue: Pencoed Social Club, Hendre Road, Pencoed. Tickets: adults £7.50, children £5. Family ticket £12, available from the squadron or contact Donna on 07789 200 204.

Dinas Powys History Society

THE next meeting of Dinas Powys Local History Society will be held on Tuesday, January 13 at 7.30pm in Kynance Hall.

There will be an illustrated talk by Mr Mike Baker with his updated collection of old postcards of Dinas Powys.

An administrative fee of £3 for non-members and £1.50 for members will be charged.

All are very welcome to attend. Enquiries to Betty Williams (02920 513524).

BW

Valeways guided walks

ON Tuesday, January 13: 'A Hamlet and a Country Park', meet at Toby Inn car park, Port Road West, Barry CF62 3BA at 1.30pm.

On Wednesday, January 14 the Coffee Shop Strollers meet at 10.30am at Romilly Cafe, Cold Knap, Barry CF62 6SW.

On Thursday, January 15 at 10.30am a walk to the beach; meet at Llantwit Major railway station car park.

'Pride' at Big Screen

JANUARY will be brightened up with our first showing of *Pride* on Thursday, January 22 at Cowbridge Town Hall.

Tickets £4 in advance from the town hall clerk's office (open Mon – Fri 9am – 1pm) or on the door. Doors open 7.10pm for 7.30pm showing.

It's inspired by an extraordinary true story – it's the summer of 1984, Margaret Thatcher is in power and the National Union of Mineworkers is on strike, prompting a London-based group of gay and lesbian activists to raise money to support the strikers' families.

Initially rebuffed by the union, the group identifies a tiny mining village in Wales and sets off to make their donation in person.

As the strike drags on, the two groups discover that standing together makes for the strongest union of all.

Fun run for local hospice

GEORGE THOMAS Hospice Care, the hospice and provider of specialist community palliative care for Cardiff, is seeking runners for its Watkins and Gunn Charity 5K Fun Run on Sunday, March 8.

A spokesman said: "Why not raise money for this worthy charity and run through Bute Park to help the hospice.

"The hospice is presently caring for several hundred patients and their families and takes on over 12 new patients every week.

"Since its establishment in 1984, George Thomas Hospice Care has supported over 20,000 patients."

People of all ages can take part in the fun run. Entry is £10 and everybody gets a T-shirt, goody bag and medal. Entry can be made online at www.gthc.org.uk or by calling GTHC on 029 2052 4150.

SOLO LATIN LINE FEVER
Cha Cha, Rumba, Mambo and more..
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ALL HALLOWS RC Parish Hall
School Road **MISKIN** 5 mins from **M4 (34)**
Starting **Sunday 11th Jan.** 7.30-9.00pm
All welcome. Partner not required. Bring a smile. 07753 413 266

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FULLY RECLINING SOFA Price is for BOTH SOFAS

The Delta. 3&2 seater reclining sofas
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Height: 79cm x Width: 230cm x Depth: 100cm

Solid Oak Dining Table
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Tripoli traditional 3 seater sofa. Available as traditional high back or with scatter back cushions.
RRP £1759 sale £879 save an EXTRA 20% **£699**
4 seater, chair & footstool also available at sale prices

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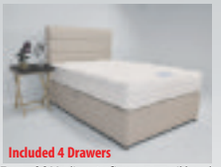

Included 4 Drawers

Emerald Medium to firm open coil hand tufted 4'6" divan set with 4 drawers included in the price.
RRP £759 sale £379 save an EXTRA 20% **£299**

Kipling 1500 A mixture of lamb's wool, cotton and silk sat on 1500 pocket springs gives great comfort and support.
RRP £999 sale £499 save an EXTRA 20% **£399**

Cloud 2000 A combination of memory foam and 2000 individually nested pockets will invite you to drift off easily.
RRP £1759 sale £879 save an EXTRA 20% **£699**

The Forte Corner Sofa. Warm, soft, funky yet still hard wearing. A huge fabric pack offers style to compliment or coordinate in your room.
RRP £1999 sale £999 save an EXTRA 20% **£799**
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G2S offers 10 year guarantee

G2S WALES is pleased to announce that its new showroom in Bridgend is now fully open. The G2S Group is one of the best known names in double glazing, with over 140 years of trading across its group of companies.

With showrooms in Swindon, Bristol, Salisbury, Melksham and Gloucester, it came to Bridgend earlier this year with the aim of bringing the best windows and doors to south Wales.

The G2S aim is simple – to be the best in their industry. The company offers transparent pricing, superior products across their range and affordable and flexible finance options for everyone, coupled with an unrivalled level of customer service.

Alan Williams, group MD, said: "The people of Bridgend and the surrounding areas have made us very welcome and have embraced our unique approach to providing windows and doors. We have received very positive feedback from many satisfied clients and I attribute this to our experienced and competent workforce.

"Many of our fitters have been with us since we started the G2S Group, and we have also employed more than 30 local people since our arrival in Bridgend."

Every window and door supplied by G2S Wales is made to measure for a perfect fit. The company applies its own unique method of fitting windows and doors, ensuring that not only are their products perfect, so is the fitting of them.

The range of window and door colours, designs and finishes is very comprehensive, and much of the work comes from customers who are recommending them to family and friends.

One of the most unique qualities of G2S Wales is that they never have, nor ever will, take deposits from their customers.

Mr Williams explained: "I believe that it is wrong to take any money from our customers before we have completed the work to their total satisfaction.

"We offer a comprehensive range of affordable finance packages to suit everybody's budget, and we are proud of our 10 year guarantee, which is better than any other in our industry.

"We are continuing to recruit new members of staff at our new Bridgend showroom to manage sales, installation and administration of the continually increasing volume of work, and we are proud of our growing workforce."

Why don't you pop along to the new showroom at York Park, Bridgend and have a look at the extensive range of products in display? G2S Wales is open six days a week, but will answer the phones personally 24 hours a day, seven days a week. You can also see their full range at www.g2swales.co.uk.

With winter setting in fast, you could save up to £754 a year with new windows. Call them free on 0800 322 322.

GEM ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

In Business Update

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Start New Year with 'Mindfulness' classes!

HAVE you ever noticed how days, weeks, even months fly by without really knowing what you've done during this time?

Many of us live life on autopilot, meaning we follow usual routines causing us not to be 'present' in our everyday living.

We can find ourselves ruminating over negative, unhelpful events, often failing to notice the good things about our lives, instead dwelling on toxic self criticism.

Learning how to become aware of our thoughts, feelings and emotions in a way that suspends judgement and self-criticism can have an incredibly positive impact on our lives.

Mindfulness is a way of introducing focus and clarity to whatever is happening in our lives.

Although it will not eliminate life's difficulties, it can help us respond to them in a calmer manner.

Mindfulness provides us with a scientifically researched approach to cultivating clarity, insight, and understanding.

Practising mindfulness allows us to be fully present in our life and work, and improve our quality of everyday living.

Courses starting January - for more information contact Sue on 07795 964066 or 02920 654893/cardiff hypnotherapy solutions@gmail.com

Sue Pitman
HPD, DHP,MNCH(Reg)
Clinical Hypnotherapist/ Psychotherapist

Contact Sue on
07795 964066 / 029 20654893
Confidential free initial consultation with no obligation at:
Barefoot Studio, Llandow nr Cowbridge.
The Business Centre, Barry.
Wellfield Osteopathic Clinic, Cardiff.
www.cardiffhypnotherapysolutions.com

Celtic New Year to be celebrated at Palmerston centre

YFARI LWYD (the Grey Mare) will pay a visit to Palmerston Community Learning Centre on January 12 for an evening event celebrating the Celtic New Year (Hen Galan).

Although in the old tradition the mare's skull was taken from farm to farm by men dressed in black or women's clothing, who sang verses at each door to demand ale and cake, more recently she has gone from pub to pub around the time of Christmas and the New Year and the singing rewarded by money for charity.

This old Glamorgan custom will be re-enacted when the Cowbridge Fari comes to Barry as part of the Welsh-medium adult learning event organised by Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan Adult Learning Partnership on January 12 from 6pm – 8pm.

All the family are welcome to come along free of charge to learn to sing Welsh verses in the singing class, try a sewing workshop, make their own horse in a craft class, and learn about old new year customs and watch a sugarcraft demonstration.

Information will be available on all the adult learning opportunities in Welsh in the Vale.

This is a Welsh language event to which all are welcome and Welsh for Adults taster classes will also be available.

Further details on 01446 733762.

GEM ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

In Business Update

Sale time at Sam B!

SAMANTHA B is often referred to as Ewenny's best kept secret! Located 200 yards from the garden centre.

Samantha offers a fantastic range of coordinated separates with labels including Olsen, Poppy, Emreco, Adini and Marble to name a few!

If you're not familiar with Samantha B, the sale time is a great way to see if you like what we've got to offer – all stock is 50 per cent off!

We will be turning our attention to the spring from February. Clients can look forward to some lovely colours, vivid lime, navy pink and taupe!

Call in and see what we have! Open Monday to Saturday, 10am-5pm 01656 658388

A HAPPY NEW YEAR
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50% OFF
Winter Sale starts 2/1/15

Beagles Country Store celebrates first birthday

BEAGLES Country Store celebrated its first birthday in November by opening an eaterie right next door to its shop in Cowbridge.

'Beagles Country Kitchen' offers all the usual café beverages and specialises in sweet and savoury crepes, cooked freshly in front of you by experienced head chef, Chris Biggs.

As the Kitchen is also fully licenced, you can enjoy a glass of something stronger while enjoying a sweet crepe made with Welsh whisky liqueurs!

New for 2015 is the Beagles discount scheme.

If you eat or drink in 'the Kitchen', your receipt acts as a 10 per cent discount voucher in the store on the same day.

Similarly, if you shop in the store, your receipt entitles you to a free regular coffee in the Kitchen on the same day.

Owners Claire and Bryan explained: "This is our way of thanking people for supporting their High Street by 'shopping and eating local', rather than giving their trade to the national chains that are taking over our rural economies and local towns".

BEAGLES
COUNTRY STORE
& CREPERIE
WINTER SALE NOW ON!
New for 2015
Shop in our store and get a free coffee* in our creperie on the same day - or eat/drink in the creperie to get 10% off in-store* on the same day
*T&Cs apply, see in-store for details
Beagles Country Store & Kitchen
Old Mason's Yard, Cowbridge, CF717EE
www.beaglesofcowbridge.com
01446 771995

Retro-Vibe Music is now in Cardiff!

RETRO-VIBE Music formerly of 44 Holton Road, Barry has now moved to new larger premises in the centre of Cardiff.

A spokeswoman explained: "Due to the volume and variety of stock we had outgrown our shop and needed a space that we could grow into.

"We are now based at 8 - 10 High Street (Castle end of St Mary Street) and are over two floors.

"We have an entire basement for vinyl, with CD's, comics, jewellery and merchandise on the ground floor.

"We are also going to be stocking a range of turntables and will be looking at setting up a dance section with listening booths in February.

"We are keen to support independent musicians by selling their recordings free of charge.

"We want to be a part of the hub and diverse music scene in south Wales – all we ask in return is that musicians tell people where their music can be bought.

"We will also be hosting in store gigs and signing sessions. These are exciting times and sales in vinyl have increased as people have realised that it is the experience of actually owning an album is more than just listening to a song."

Vinyl Records, CDs & Comics Bought & Sold!
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IT'S 2015! So let's get organised

THE start of a new year often inspires us to be more organised. Pop into The Pencil Case, the independent stationery and school uniform shop at 50 Eastgate, Cowbridge, and you'll find everything you need!

There is a lovely collection of 2015 diaries and family calendars (from just £2.99) to help you plan the year ahead.

Get organised with handy to-do lists, pocket-sized notebooks, folders for all your paperwork – they even have a shopping organiser!

If you've just gone back to school, there is a wide selection of colourful files, pens and other stationery ready for the term ahead, as well as the full range of school uniform for Cowbridge Comprehensive, Y Bont Faen, Llangan and St David's Primary Schools.

The pencil case
January Sale - 1/3rd off kids' partyware and selected stationery!
2015 diaries & family calendars
Primary & secondary school uniform
50 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7AB 01446 772210
sally@thepencilcase.co.uk www.thepencilcase.co.uk
ThePencilCaseCowbridge @ThePencilCaseCo

A busy month for Jenner Park's school choir

Jenner Park Primary School choir sang at the Christmas Tree Festival.

JENNER PARK Primary School Choir sang in the Christmas Tree Festival at St Mary's Church, Holton Road.

The choir also took part in the 'Night of 1,000 Voices', when 32 members of the choir sang in the Motorpoint Arena in December.

Mr D Morris would like to thank parents and children for working so hard learning the songs and representing Jenner Park Primary School.

LB

Youth project to fundraise at toy and train fair

AFTER a busy 2014, working in the community and fundraising for local causes, the Cadoxton Youth Project start off the new year fundraising at the Penarth Toy and Train Fair at Penarth Leisure Centre, Andrew Road, from 10.30am to 3pm.

Traders and collectors converge on the event, not just to find collectable items, but to experience the variety of foods that Rita and the team have to offer the public.

Proceeds will go to Ty Hafan, Marie Curie and Y-Care International (YMCA world wide).

All are welcome to experience the variety that the Toy and Train Fair has to offer.

Book launch in Penarth

GRIFFIN Books, Penarth's independent bookshop, recently hosted the launch of local poet E Mary Wilce's new collection.

An appreciative audience enjoyed Mary's reading of selected poems from *An Absence of Meadows* in both English and Welsh, which was inspired by her upbringing on a farm in rural Carmarthenshire.

Mary then signed copies of the book, which is available at £7.99 for the standard edition, or £12.99 for the illustrated version.

The next event at Griffin Books will be the launch of local author Jan Marsh's new novel during February.

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The Vale of Glamorgan Council

(MURCH ROAD (PART), DINAS POWYS) (20 MPH ZONE) ORDER 2014

On the 7th January 2015 the Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Sections1, 2 and 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended), sections 90A&C of the Highways Act 1980 (as amended), the provisions contained within The Highways (Road Humps) Regulations 1999 and of all other enabling powers, made an Order the general effect of which is as described in the Schedules below.

The Order will come into operation on the 9th January 2015 and a copy of the Order and a plan showing the affected area may be seen at the address shown below during normal office hours.

If you wish to question the validity of the Order or any provisions contained therein on the grounds that they are not within the powers conferred by the above Act or on the grounds that any requirement of the same or that any instrument made under it has not been complied with in relation to the Order, you may within six weeks from the 9th January 2015 apply to the High Court for this purpose.

PART 1

No person shall cause or permit a vehicle to proceed at a speed greater than 20 miles per hour along the location specified in schedule 1 below.

Traffic calming measures, as described in column 1 of schedule 2, shall be introduced in order to reduce traffic speed and improve road safety, at the locations described in column 2 of schedule 2 below.

PART 2

The limitations and restrictions imposed by this Order and the lengths of highway to which they relate are those identified in drawing no T/14/94/MS that accompanies these schedules

SCHEDULE 1

No person shall cause or permit a vehicle to proceed at a speed greater than 20 miles per hour along Murch Road Dinas Powys from a point 70 metres southeast of its junction with Plas Essyllt to a point 70 metres northwest of its junction with Castle Drive, a total distance of approximately 240 metres.

SCHEDULE 2

Type	Location
Flat top speed cushions with approximate dimensions: 65mm high x 1.90 metres long x 1.75 metres wide.	Murch Road – the centre being approximately 32 metres southeast of its junction with Plas Essyllt. Murch Road – the centres being approximately 60 and 123 metres northwest of its junction with Plas Essyllt
Flat top plateau with approximate dimensions: 75mm high x 6.0 metres long x 7.3 metres	Murch Road – the centre being approximately 19 metres northwest of its junction with Plas Essyllt.

Dated this 8th day of January 2015
M. E. Punter
Director of Visible Services and Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA.

Cyngor Bro Morgannwg 2014

GORCHYMYN (ARDAL 20 MYA) (MURCH ROAD (RHAN YN UNIG), DINAS POWYS)

Ar 7 Ionawr 2015, yr oedd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, gan arfer ei bwerau o dan Adrannau 1, 2 a 84 Deddf Rheoli Traffig y Ffyrdd 1984 (ddiwygiedig), adrannau 90A ac C Deddf Priffyrdd 1980 (ddiwygiedig), darpariaethau Rheoliadau Priffyrdd (Twmpathau Ffyrdd) 1999 a phob pŵer galluogi arall, wedi gwneud Gorchymyn y disgrifir ei effaith gyffredinol yn yr Atodlenni isod.

Daw'r Gorchymyn i rym ar 9 Ionawr 2015, a bydd copi ohono a chynllun sy'n dangos yr ardal berthnasol i'w gweld yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau swyddfa arferol.

Os hoffech ddadlau'n erbyn dilysrwydd y Gorchymyn neu'i ddarpariaethau am na chredwch fod gan y ddeddf uchod bŵer i'w gweithredu, neu am y tybiwch eu bod wedi methu â chydymffurfio â gofynion y ddeddf uchod neu un o'i hofferynnau, bydd gennych chwe wythnos o 9 Ionawr 2015 i wneud cais i'r Uchel Lys i'r diben hwnnw.

RHAN 1

Ni fydd unrhyw un yn gyrru nac yn caniatáu i unrhyw un arall yrru'n gyflymach nag 20 milltir yr awr yn y mannau a nodwyd yn Atodlen 1 isod.

Cymerir y camau a ddisgrifiwyd yng ngholofn 1 atodlen 2 i arafu'r traffig a gwneud y ffordd yn fwy diogel yn y mannau a nodwyd yng ngholofn 2 atodlen 2 isod.

RHAN 2

Mae'r cyfyngiadau a orfodir gan y Gorchymyn hwn a'r darnau perthnasol o ffordd i'w gweld yn llun T/14/94/MS sydd wedi'i gynnwys gyda'r atodlenni hyn.

ATODLEN 1

Ni fydd unrhyw un yn gyrru nac yn caniatáu i unrhyw un arall yrru'n gyflymach nag 20 milltir yr awr ar hyd Murch Road, Dinas Powys rhwng man sy'n 70 medr i'r de-ddwyrain o'i chyffordd â Phlas Esyllt, a man 70 medr i'r gogledd- orllewin o'i chyffordd â Castle Drive - sef pellter o ryw 240 medr i gyd.

ATODLEN 2

Math	Lleoliad
Clustogau arafu pen gwastad sydd oddeutu 65mm o uchder x 1.90 medr o hyd x 1.75 medr o led.	Murch Road – bydd y canol oddeutu 32 o fedrau i'r de-ddwyrain o'i chyffordd â Phlas Esyllt. Murch Road – bydd canol y clustogau oddeutu 60 a 123 medr i'r gogledd-orllewin o'i chyffordd â Phlas Esyllt
Llwyfan arafu ben gwastad sydd oddeutu 75mm o uchder x 6.0 medr o hyd x 7.3 medr o led.	Murch Road – bydd y canol oddeutu 19 medr i'r gogledd-orllewin o'i chyffordd â Phlas Esyllt.

Dyddiedig 8 Ionawr 2015
M. E. Punter
Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Gweladwy a Thai,
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Canolfan yr Alpau, Gwenfô. CF5 6AA.

Join the Macmillan quiz team

THE Macmillan Mammoth Quiz is back, now in its seventh year with a brand new, brain-teasing quiz for 2015.

The Mammoth Quiz is Macmillan's nationwide quiz. Simply put, it is the same quiz, being held on the same day, at the same time, throughout the country.

A spokeswoman said: "The mammoth quiz even holds the Guinness World Record for the world's largest simultaneous quiz. We need people to help make the 2015 Macmillan Quiz the biggest and best yet and help us to reach our target of over £200,000.

"Macmillan are looking for local groups and businesses across the UK to host a quiz on February 27 to raise funds for people affected by cancer. It's a really fun and easy way to raise money for Macmillan, and you can hold your quiz anywhere from the local pub or bowling club to the office or school.

"It costs £10 to sign up to host a Mammoth Quiz. You will then be sent a welcome pack with a 2015 quiz and fundraising materials".

To register for your 2015 quiz pack, find out more about the Mammoth Quiz and start downloading sample questions and fundraising materials, log on to www.macmillanmammothquiz.co.uk or email mammoth.quiz.uk@gmail.com.

Mayor's charity coffee morning

THE Vale of Glamorgan Mayor is hosting a charity coffee morning in aid of the Real Lives group on Tuesday, January 13, from 10.30am to 12 noon in the Civic Office. All are welcome.

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The BIG Fill returns for the New Year

THE 'BIG Fill' has returned to complete the pledge of filling potholes in every ward in the Vale.

A Vale Council spokesman said: "Since July, the BIG Fill has visited the wards of Dyfan, Illtyd, Cadoc, Court, Castleland, Buttrills, Baruc, Gibbonsdown, Llantwit Major and Llandough, using 280 tonnes of tarmac to fill approximately 3,800 potholes.

"The work continues as the team head to the ward of Cornerswell on Saturday, January 17 and Sunday, January 18.

"Please don't forget to report potholes on the Monday to Friday prior to the weekend the team will be in the ward. The BIG Fill schedules can be found in the local press, on Twitter and Facebook and on the Vale website at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

"To report a pothole, call our contact centre on 01446 700111 and say you are reporting a pothole under the BIG Fill campaign, or email *thebigfill@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk*.

"If a pothole is marked with a white ring, there is no need to report it. The BIG Fill is already on the case."

'Roma may not be keen on Blunkett'

AT last the truth has emerged and I feel vinidicated. As a long-standing Labour Party member (35 years) I resigned in disgust in 2000, believing, among other things, that David Blunkett MP and Home Secretary was the most reactionary person ever to have held that position.

Within the last few weeks he has declared that he would not want Roma living next door to him in Sheffield. It may be that they would not wish to live next to him, either!

These comments were regularly heard in the 50s and 60s directed at West Indians, Pakistanis and Ugandan Asians. Such sentiments were also common in apartheid South Africa.

They have no place within a party which still prides itself on being 'moral' and 'principled'. Over to you, Mr Miliband.

Christopher Short, Barry.

CCTV in the Vale

CCTV monitoring in the Vale led to 15 arrests, an ASBO issued, and a 'missing person' found last week.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council's CCTV team contacted police a total of 54 times during the week ending January 4.

Welsh for the family courses

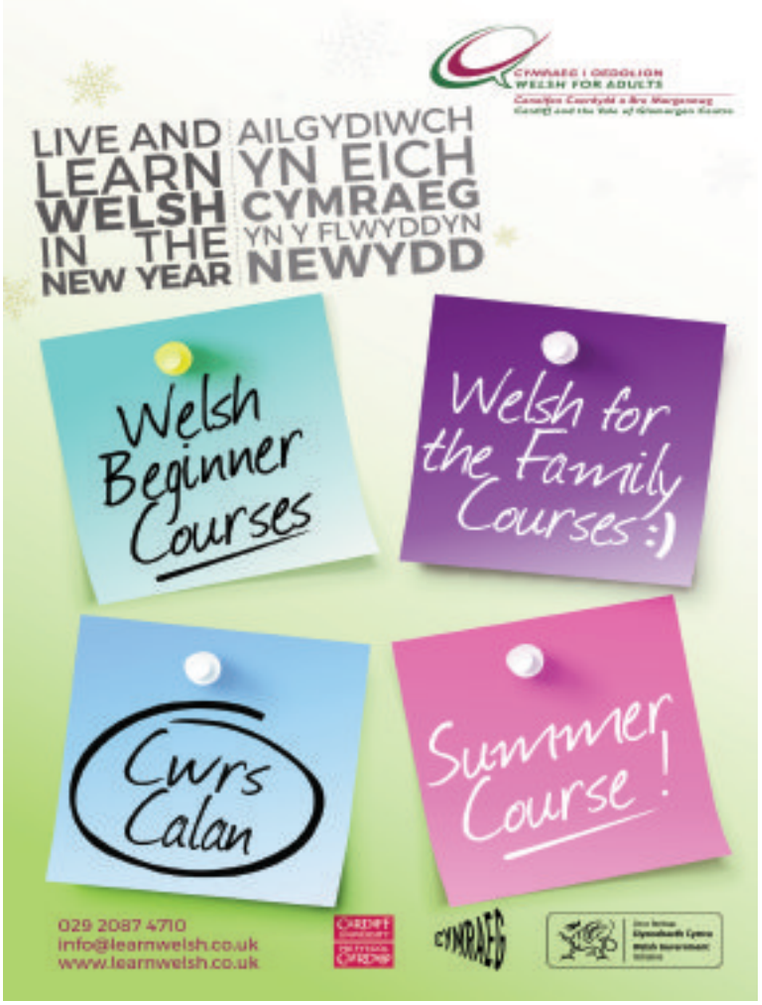
DOES your child attend a Welsh-speaking school and you would like to be able to help them with their homework, or at least know what you're reading them at bed time?

If so, why not try a 'Welsh for the Family' course?

These courses are tailored to allow parents, family members, friends or anyone working with children to learn and understand children while they speak Welsh.

They're different to other courses in the way that they're full of tailored vocabulary, language patterns, songs and activities to help you communicate with children in Welsh.

More information is available from www.learnwelsh.co.uk, 029 20 874 710 or info@learnwelsh.co.uk.



NEW BEAUTY SALON

Claudia Beauty and Aesthetic Clinic

Welcome to

Claudia Beauty Aesthetic Clinic, my name is Claudia James and I am a fully qualified semi permanent make up specialist and beauty therapist, aesthetically trained in chemical peels, dermatology and much more. Having worked in the beauty industry for over 10 years including top clinics in Cardiff, I have always embraced new technology & kept up with the latest and most effective procedures in the beauty industry.

Visit the salon to see for yourself what I have to offer. If you are looking for one to one private service in elegant suroundings without the celebrity price tag, look no further than Claudia's.

10% OFF all Beauty Treatments only with this Voucher.
Valid until 31 st January 2015

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- Semi permananent make-up from £80
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- Amazing packages & wedding make up etc
- Flare lashes from as little as £10 & individual lashes from £30

Take good care of your feet

STEP into 2015 with comfortable feet that show they are cared for.

Vale Podiatry and Chiropody is pleased to help you solve all your foot problems. Whatever the problem Angela and Sarah Battrick are fully qualified and registered podiatrists and will be able to help.

Angela said: "We treat all ages and are particularly sensitive to the nervous or embarrassed patient. We combine many years' experience in private and NHS clinics with up-to-date procedures and training."

Sarah added: "We look forward to meeting you at either our Cowbridge or Llantwit Major Clinics; we also offer home appointments to those peoples who are unable to attend due to illness or disability.

"In addition, we have an evening clinic in Llantwit Major for those who are working during the day."

Footcare for All - Friendly, Professional Podiatrists

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Angela Battrick Dip.Pod.M,M.Ch.S.
Sarah Battrick BSc (Hons) Pod.M M.Ch.S

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23 High Street, Cowbridge. CF71 7AE
Email: hello@valepodiatry.co.uk
www.valepodiatry.co.uk

Canada is now closer to Wales!

AQUA Spas & Pools, based in Barry, has just been awarded 'best outstanding dealer worldwide' at a recent conference in beautiful Vancouver BC.

Julian Morgan, the company director now in his 10th year, was overwhelmed when he picked up the award at the Coast spas dealer meeting.

Part of the award was the winning trip to the stunning ski resort of Whistler with his service engineer David Collard.

The award acknowledged Aqua Spas' commitment, with their business partners at the factory, to provide hundreds of quality real Canadian hot tubs to many south Wales customers.

Now is the time to experience what many other families are already enjoying in their homes, as seen on ITV.

Owning a real Canadian hot tub is a lot less than you think at Aqua Spas.

Wales' only hot tub importer is now in its 10th year in south Wales with over 1,000 successful installs. We can offer professional tub packages for as little as £3,571 including delivery! Please call in to our 15 hot tub display showroom at Atlantic Gate, Barry.

Why not have some wellness in your life and join the many happy Aqua Spa owners in your area?

Health, Beauty & Fitness

FRIENDLY PILATES CLASSES...

PILATES classes are held at St Nicholas Hall and the Millennium Centre in Barry, and in Cowbridge, at Curves in the centre of town.

Classes are small and friendly and are available for complete beginners up to intermediates. Pilates is a gentle form of exercise for the whole body, combining strength with flexibility and postural awareness.

Classes are led by qualified Pilates teacher Sharon Sylvester, who is also a registered osteopath working in Barry. There are two new six-week introductory courses for beginners suitable for those with little or no experience of Pilates.

Courses begin on Monday, January 19, 11.30am at St Nicholas Hall, Barry, and on Tuesday, January 20 at 10am in Cowbridge. In the evenings, beginners can join at 5.30pm, Monday and 7.15pm Friday in Barry.

To book your place, *contact Sharon on 07830 085606, or sharonpilates@hotmail.com.*

Barry Pilates Classes
Mondays 9.15am, 10.30am & 5.30pm
Thursdays 9am & 10am
Fridays 6pm & 7.15pm
New Beginners Course
Start Monday 19 January 11.30am
To Book or for more information
Sharon 07830 085606
www.barrypilates.co.uk

NEW YEAR, NEW START, NEW YOU!

JUST 30 minutes – three times a week – will make a difference! You will not only look and feel better, but you will *be* better.

Why we are different at The Bay Health Club, Fontygary:

- The friendly atmosphere and staff.
- Great equipment, including the new Octane Lateral X and Vibrostation.
- Separate free weights room, including punch bag and Smiths machine.
- 25m indoor pool.
- Leisure area – with jacuzzi, steam room and sauna.
- Payments can be made over the counter, or by direct debit.
- Specific individual programmes designed.
- NO joining fee.

If you have never used a gym before, you don't need to feel intimidated, as our staff will show you exactly what to do and how each piece of equipment works!

The pool changing rooms have been refurbished and we have new graphics around the pool area.

We offer swimming lessons every Friday.

We offer a warm welcome to everyone – don't take our word for it. Why not come down and see for yourself?

Call Jennie on 01446 710386 for more details.

SCULPTING YOU TO A PERFECT FIGURE...

A BITE of a mince pie or an extra helping of pudding over the festive period seems so innocent at the time...

However, a recent study has found out that the extra pounds we pile on over the Christmas period will take a depressing three months to shift.

We at Sculpts Extreme Supplements have one goal which is to bring the highest quality supplements at the lowest price.

Our experienced team of nutrition experts have worked alongside training enthusiasts to bring together a catalogue of elite quality products to maximize potential.

Brimming with ingenuity and quality, our product line breaks the mould of what supplements are capable of.

Whatever your goal maybe Sculpts Extreme supplements will provide the catapult to get you there!

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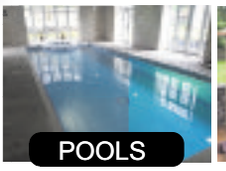
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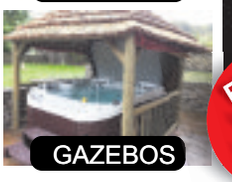
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Health, Beauty & Fitness

A slimmer you for 2015!

PEOPLE in Llantwit Major can look forward to a healthier, happier New Year with the help of a local slimming expert who is celebrating 10 years as a consultant.

This January, Helen Waite, who runs two Slimming World groups in Llantwit Major, is delighted to reveal a brand new plan for slimmers.

She said: "Slimming World has been helping people to lose weight for more than 45 years, so we've learned a thing or two about supporting slimmers to achieve their dreams, including a deep understanding of the emotional as well as the practical aspects of losing weight.

"If anyone in Llantwit Major is pledging to slim down and become more active in 2015, Slimming World is the place to be to make sure their dreams turn into a reality."

Helen pointed out that people who embark on New Year diets fail within days or weeks because they follow plans that are too restrictive and leave them feeling hungry or deprived so they're impossible to keep up.

But Slimming World's Food Optimising plan isn't a diet and you don't have to count and measure everything you eat. Instead by satisfying your appetite on everyday foods like fruit and vegetables, pasta, rice, potatoes, lean meat and fish, which are filling, yet naturally low in calories, it's possible to lose weight without ever having to go hungry or feel deprived.

Members will get the support of a Helen, a highly trained consultant, who knows what it is like to confront weight issues.

Helen said: "I've lost seven stone with Slimming World myself, so I know exactly what it feels like, from feeling nervous about walking into the group on that first day through to the joy of reaching your weight-loss target.

"Everyone in the group is there for the same reason – to lose weight and become happier and healthier. Each week we help and support each other by sharing advice, ideas, tips, recipes and more."

Anyone who'd like to join the Llantwit Major Slimming World group can pop along every Tuesday at the Catholic Church, Ham Lane East at 9.30am, 5.30pm or 7.30pm, or for more information, call Helen on 01446 750738.

love life
love Slimming World

NEW for 2015! Power up your weight loss

Join a warm and friendly group near you today...

Mondays 5:30pm and 7:30pm
Tabernacle Church Kings Square, Barry
Lorraine 01446 407002

Monday 5.30 & 7.30pm
Christchurch Methodist Church, Ogmore Vale
Steph 07584 563896

Mondays 5:30pm and 7:30pm
Elfed Avenue United Church, Elfed Avenue, Penarth
Nia 07793 885581

Tuesdays 9:30am
Parish of Our Lady & St Illtyd, (Catholic Church), Ham Lane East, Llantwit Major
Helen 01446 750738/ 07968355119

Tuesdays 5:30pm and 7:30pm
Parish of Our Lady & St Illtyd, (Catholic Church), Ham Lane East, Llantwit Major
Helen 01446 750738/ 07968355119

Tuesdays 5:30pm
Holy Trinity Presbyterian, Church Hall, Trinity Street, Barry
Joanne 01446 404897

Tuesdays 5:30pm and 7:30pm
The Welfare Hall, Hope Avenue, Next To The Old Cinema, Aberkenfig, CF32 9PR
Lorraine 01656 734710

Tuesdays 6:30pm
The Old School, South Road, Sully CF64 5TG
Nicola - 01446 740394

Tuesdays 7:30pm
St Marys Catholic Church Hall, Ewenny Road, Bridgend
Graham 07475 865005

Wednesdays 6:00pm
Cadoxton Methodist Church, Church Road, Barry
Joanne 01446 404897

Wednesdays 4:45pm and 6:45pm
St Francis Millennium Centre, Park Road, Porth-Y-Castell, Barry
Annamarie 01446 736534

Wednesday 5.30 & 7.30 pm
Bridgend Deaf Club, Coychurch Road, Bridgend
Helen - 01656 720963

Thursdays 9.30am
Nolton Church Hall Merthyr Mawr Road Bridgend
Donna 01656 669739 07790797008

Thursdays 9:30am
Cowbridge Rugby Club The Broad Shoard
Rob - 07708 941279

Thursdays 10.15am
St Helen's Church Hall, Wyndham Street, Barry CF63 4EL
Nicola - 01446 740394

Thursday at 5.30pm
Pencoed RFC Felindre Road, Pencoed
Donna 01656 669739 07790797008

Thursday - 5:30pm
Scout Hall, Minerva Street Bridgend
Rhian - 07837 280013

Thursdays 5:30pm
Highlight Park Community Centre, Barry - Annamarie 01446 736534

Saturdays 9:30am
Westward Community Centre, Llangewydd Road, Cefn Glas
Gail 07551 576592

Saturday 9:30am and 11:30am
Brackla Community Centre, Brackla
Rhian - 07837 280013

visit the website to read Jess's story
slimmingworld.com
0844 897 8000

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Treat your feet... WITH RS PODIATRY

RS PODIATRY is an established podiatry and chiropody practice at Highlight Park Medical Practice in Barry.

Rebecca Skinner is fully qualified and a member of The Society of Chiropodists and Podiatrists and The Health Care Professions Council.

This friendly practice is available to treat all foot ailments for all generations, from active senior citizens to young sports people.

Rebecca is highly experienced at assessing and treating all foot and ankle problems and is dedicated to providing the best treatment and patient care at affordable prices.

For the most comfortable feet this year, please call 01446 734064 for an appointment.

RS PODIATRY
TREAT YOUR FEET

hcpc health & care professions council
The Society of Chiropodists and Podiatrists

Rebecca Skinner BSc (Hons) MChS
HCPC Registered Podiatrist / Chiropodist

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"Jet loves his toys, especially frisbees and having a mad five minutes in the field! He will need experienced owners who are willing to work with us at the centre over a few visits while he gets to know them.

"Jet will benefit from living in a rural setting, rather than a busy town. Once you get to know Jet, you will have a loyal and loving companion! Jet can live with children over the age of 14."

If you can offer Jet a loving home, call 01656 725219 or visit Dogs Trust Bridgend during our new opening hours – we are open 12 noon to 4pm, every day except Wednesday. We have lots of lovely dogs here just waiting for their new homes.

Linda Feagan,
Dogs Trust Bridgend.

Former Barry player nets against Reds!

WHILE the majority of the press concentrated on the soon-to-depart Steven Gerrard's two goal haul against AFC Wimbledon on Monday evening for Liverpool, for local football fans there was something closer to home to get excited about.

When AFC Wimbledon equalised in the 36th minute, the goal was scored by former Barry Town striker Adebayo Akinfenwa, the much-travelled striker poking home from six yards out to restore parity against their Premier League opponents, before eventually going down 2-1.

The League 2 outfit are the 14th club on Akinfenwa's CV, the 32 year old having started his professional career in Lithuania with FK Atlantas before joining Barry Town for a short spell in 2003, making nine appearances and scoring six goals, before leaving for Boston United; he's also had spells at, among others, Swansea and Millwall, with two separate spells at both Gillingham and Northampton – incredibly, the striker has never been at any club longer than 30 months!

Nicknamed 'The Beast' due to the fact that he weighs in at 16 stone, Akinfenwa has earned cult status wherever he has played, and is classed as the strongest footballer in the world by the FIFA console games, being able to bench press an incredible 28 stone!

The Liverpool fan took a particular memento from Monday night's game, landing Gerrard's shirt after the match, having told his team mates: "I've told the boys that if anyone gets his shirt before me we are going to have a problem."

If Brendan Rogers' troubles continue, could a move for 'The Beast' be on the cards? You never know!

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South Wales during the Great War – January 1915

CERI Joseph of Porthcawl Museum has supplied The GEM with this account of how the town was affected by the outbreak of World War One.

THE constant stream of men arriving in Porthcawl to enlist in the various regiments led to a near billeting crisis.

By mid-January, the numbers were such that pressure was put on Colonel Wilkie, Commander of the Porthcawl units, to consider enforcing compulsory billeting on the residents.

Subsequently the situation was alleviated due to the decision to send another unit of the 17th Battalion, Welsh Regiment (1st Glamorgan Bantams) to Colwyn Bay for further training. On Saturday, January 16, the crowd cheered the Bantams along John Street to the railway station, to the sound of the band playing 'It's a Long Way to Tipperary.'

The same reception was afforded the 123rd/124th Royal Engineers when they left on January 23. *'The men paraded on the Esplanade at nine o'clock and marched to the railway station headed by the buglers. Colonel Wilkie was at the station supervising their departure.'* (Porthcawl News January 28, 1915.)

Colonel Charles Joseph Wilkie had, a month before, been promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, attached to the 17th Battalion Welsh Regiment. A career soldier born in Melbourne, Australia, in 1869; having attended a public school in Brighton and Owen's College, Manchester, he joined the militia.

In 1892, transferring to the Oxford and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry as a 2nd Lieutenant, he saw service in India and Ireland before retiring from the army in 1907.

However, his expertise was soon called upon after the Haldane Act that same year, which re-structured the British Army. It led to the creation of the Territorial Force and National Reserve, which required direction and leadership. Colonel Wilkie represented Wales on most of the committees connected with this challenge.

In late 1914, he was involved with the mobilization of the Territorial Battalions, during which time he was stationed at Porthcawl until his departure to Colwyn Bay at the end of the January. He and his wife, Dora had rented rooms at the Marine Hotel during their stay.

At a regimental dinner preceding his departure to join his regiment in north Wales, Colonel Wilkie claimed: *"We are going to Berlin and collect Iron Crosses as mementoes... We will call ourselves there, the Porthcawl Club."* (Porthcawl News January 21, 1915.)

In June 1916, commanding the 17th Battalion, Welsh Regiment he arrived in France. Colonel Wilkie was killed in action on October 18, 1916. He was 47 years old.

During January, approximately 1,000 more men had descended on Porthcawl, bringing the total to 3,500. Of the new arrivals, 240 were attached to the 7th Welsh Cyclists under the command of Colonel Wilson, stationed at the Pier Hotel. Their duty was to patrol the coast from the Ogmore River to Aberavon.

According to the Rest Home ledgers now held by the museum, 176 men of the 1st Welsh Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps also arrived; and were stationed at the Rest Home from January 15 – 28.

One of their number included Percy Henry Brooke, an ironmonger's assistant from Philadelphia Road, Porthcawl. However within two years, while at Grantham, Lincolnshire, Percy had enlisted into the Lancashire Fusiliers. After being missing for many weeks, Corporal Percy H Brooke was reported as having being killed in action on March 18, 1918, at Templeux le Geurard, the Somme, during the German Spring Offensive. He was 27 years old.

Two more Porthcawl men enlisted that January into the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry. John Williams (signal-porter) and John William Ridall (lamp man) had been employees of the Great Western Railway. It was reported that by the end of January, 9,358 GWR Railway men had enlisted into the services. John Williams was to survive the war but, sadly, Sergeant Ridall was killed amid heavy shelling during the Battle of Guillemont in the Somme.

In the letter received by his prospective father-in-law Albert Williams, it was stated that: *'He left the trenches 25/8/16 to go to the dressing station in company of a stretcher-bearer. He was not wounded but suffering from shell shock. The man whom he was with was found a day later killed by shell-fire; and no trace could be found of Sgt Riddall.'*

The official telegram was to report 'Missing believed killed.' Sgt Ridall had been expected home within the month to be married to Evelyn Williams of Philadelphia Road. His body was never recovered. As a result, his name appears on the Theipval Memorial in the Somme. He was 26 years old.

Besides the military presence in the town, focus at home tended to be directed toward the sale of the town's gasworks. It was soon hoped that it would become the property of the ratepayers and that its efficiency would then greatly improve. It could not happen quickly enough, as many residents had complained of having difficulty seeing each other after dark and of problems cooking breakfast.

Another concern was the price of wheat and flour, which had risen 2 shillings to 55 shillings a quarter.

Rumours of aliens and imposters continued to alarm people. The War Office sent out a warning in January for the public to be on the lookout for imposters '*posing as wounded soldiers*.' Evidence of such cases had been placed in the hands of the police.

The public were also alerted to the effects of war on their health. It was believed that many were '*unconsciously approaching a breakdown*.' To meet this situation the War Office directed the public to the taking of British Sanaphos '*which completely supersedes the German preparation, Sanatogen*.' (Porthcawl News January 21, 1915.)

Finally, that January under the direction of Mrs Dora Wilkie, the ladies of the town were employed knitting mittens and neck-comforters to be sent to the troops at the front; and serving tea at the Bon Marche Tearooms, John Street, to the Cyclist Corps.

Join me next month to read when the 18th Battalion, 2nd Glamorgan Bantams, arrived at Porthcawl. Also, how they became part of Porthcawl life to such an extent that after the war their standard was presented to, and still hangs, in All Saints' Church today.

Ceri Joseph,
Porthcawl Museum.

Porthcawl Museum is open every Tuesday – Friday 10am – 12pm and 2pm – 4pm. Saturdays, 10am – 4pm.

Crowds cheering the troops up John Street, on their way to the railway station. Battalions left Porthcawl for further training at larger camps in North Wales.

A group of the 7th Welsh Cyclist Corps, encamped on Lock's Common.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council

(B4265 ST BRIDES ROAD (PART) EWENNY) (ROAD CLOSURE) (TEMPORARY) ORDER 2015

The Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended), and of all other enabling powers intends in not less than seven days from the date of this Notice to make an Order the general effect of which is as described in the schedules below: -

SCHEDULE 1

1. No person shall cause or permit a motor vehicle to proceed in the location specified in Schedule 2 below.

SCHEDULE 2

Location B4265 - St Brides Road, Ewenny from its junction with the access road into the quarry to the rear of number 1 Kingswood Close at grid 290072 177011 in a generally south westerly direction to the quarry access at Pontalun at grid 289928 176698. A distance of approximately 325m.

Reason To allow removal and replacement of a railway bridge on behalf of Network Rail.

Duration From 6.00am on Monday 2nd February 2015, until 30 June 2015.

Diversions **(for vehicles under 15 feet high)** for southwest bound traffic during the above closure will be signed in a north easterly direction along St Brides Road and continuing along this road to the junction of the B4524 Ogmore Road, then turning left at this junction and continuing in a generally south westerly direction and continue along the B4524 along Main Road, through the village of Ogmore-By-Sea, continue along the B4524 through Southerndown continue along this road along Southerndown road, and Bull Hill, to where this road meets the B4265 at St Brides. then turning left onto the B4265 Ewenny Road, continue along the B4265 along Ewenny Road and St Brides Road to the south western point of the closure, and visa-versa.

Diversions **(for vehicles over 15 feet high)** for south westbound traffic during the above closure will be signed in a north easterly direction along St Brides Road and continuing along this road to the junction of the B4524 Wick Road and turning right into Wick Road, continue along the B4524 Wick Road and Corntown Road through the villages of Ewenny and Corntown, to where this road meets the A48, turn right onto the A48, and follow in an easterly direction along this road to Penre Mayrick, turn right into the B4268, and continue in a southerly direction along this road through the village of Llysworney to Nash Corner. From Nash Corner continue in a southerly direction along the B4270 to its junction with the B4265 at Llantwit Major then turn right onto the B4265, and continue along this road through Wick and St Brides to the south western side of the closure, and visa-versa.

Pedestrian and emergency vehicle access cannot be maintained during this closure.

Dated this 8th day of January 2015.

M. E. Punter,
Director of Visible Services & Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA.

Cyngor Bro Morgannwg 2015

GORCHYMYN (CAU FFORDD) (DROS DRO) (B4265 ST BRIDES ROAD (RHAN YN UNIG) EWENNI)

Mae Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, gan arfer ei bwerau o dan Adran 14 Deddf Rheoli Traffig y Ffyrdd 1984 (ddiwygiedig), a phob pŵer galluogi arall, yn bwriadu, ymhen o leiaf saith niwrnod ar ôl dyddiad yr Hysbysiad hwn, wneud Gorchymyn a fydd yn cael yr effaith gyffredinol a ddisgrifir yn yr atodlenni isod

ATODLEN 1

1. Ni fydd unrhyw un yn gyrru nac yn caniatáu i unrhyw un arall yrru cerbyd modur yn y man a nodwyd yn Atodlen 2 isod.

ATODLEN 2

Lleoliad B4265 - St Brides Road, Ewenni, o'r gyffordd â ffordd fynediad y chwarel, y tu cefn i 1 Kingswood Close, wrth gyfeirnod grid 290072 177011, ac ymlaen i gyfeiriad cyffredinol y de-orllewin, hyd at fynedfa'r chwarel ym Mhontalun wrth gyfeirnod grid 289928 176698. Rhyw 325 medr yw hynny i gyd.

Rheswm Symud ac ailosod pont reilffordd ar ran Network Rail.

Cyfnod O 6.00am ar ddydd Llun 2 Chwefror 2015 hyd 30 Mehefin 2015.

Dargyfeirio **(cerbydau llai na 15 troedfedd o uchder)** tra bod y ffordd ar gau, bydd traffig sy'n teithio i'r de-orllewin yn cael ei gyfeirio tua'r gogledd-ddwyrain ar hyd St Brides Road. Bydd yn dilyn y ffordd honno hyd at y gyffordd ag Ogmore Road (B4524), yn troi i'r chwith yn y fan honno ac yn parhau i ddilyn y B4524 i gyfeiriad y de-orllewin ar hyd Main Road drwy bentref Aberogwr. Bydd yn dilyn y B4524 o hyd drwy Southerndown, ar hyd Southerndown Road a thrwy ardal Bull Hill hyd at y gyffordd â'r B4265 yn Sain Ffraid. Bydd yn troi i'r chwith wedyn i Ewenny Road (B4265), ac yn dilyn yr heol honno, ac yna St Brides Road, hyd at ben de-orllewinol y ffordd gaeedig. Bydd y daith yn ôl yn dilyn yr un llwybr yn union ond o chwith.

Dargyfeirio **(cerbydau dros 15 troedfedd o uchder)** tra bod y ffordd ar gau, bydd traffig sy'n teithio i'r de-orllewin yn cael ei gyfeirio tua'r gogledd-ddwyrain ar hyd St Brides Road. Bydd yn dilyn y ffordd honno hyd at gyffordd Wick Road (B4524), yn troi i'r dde i Wick Road ac yn dilyn Wick Road (B4524), ac yna Corntown Road drwy bentrefi Ewenni a Chorntwn hyd at y gyffordd â'r A48. Bydd yn troi i'r dde i'r A48 yn y fan honno, yn dilyn y ffordd i gyfeiriad y dwyrain hyd at Bentremeurig, yn troi i'r dde i'r B4268, ac yn parhau i ddilyn y ffordd honno i gyfeiriad y de drwy bentref Llyswyrny hyd at Nash Corner. O'r fan honno, bydd yn dilyn y B4270 i gyfeiriad y de hyd at y gyffordd â'r B4265 yn Llanilltud Fawr ac yn troi i'r dde i'r B4265. Bydd yn dilyn y ffordd honno wedyn drwy'r Wig a Sain Ffraid hyd at ochr dde-orllewinol y ffordd gaeedig. Bydd y daith yn ôl yn dilyn yr un llwybr yn union ond o chwith.

Ni fydd yn bosibl i gerddwyr na cherbydau argyfwng gael mynediad i'r ffordd tra ei bod ar gau.

Dyddiedig 8 Ionawr 2014.

M. E. Punter,
Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Gweladwy a Thai,
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Canolfan yr Alpau, Gwenfô. CF5 6AA.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 5:00PM 14 January 2015

Vale of Glamorgan Council | Hafod Housing Association | Newydd Housing Association | United Welsh | Wales and West Housing Association

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or apply in writing to:
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Visible Services and Housing
Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU or
Newydd Housing Association
121 Broad Street, Barry CF62 7AL

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H4U Reference 108412

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H4U Reference 222086

Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement

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- Gardens

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TENSING TERRACE, BARRY

H4U Reference 225844

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The league leaders just edge out Llantwit Major in ferocious game

SATURDAY saw Llantwit Major welcome league leaders Dinas Powys to the Rec.

With the club still reeling from the news of the untimely passing of last season's player Dave Synan, a respectful minute's silence was observed by both sets of players and supporters in Dave's memory. From the kick off the game was played with intensity - it was a fitting tribute.

It was Dinas Powys who got on the scoresheet first with a penalty. They continued playing the simple nine man game of the pack trundling along making hard yards with pod after pod of attack.

Llantwit were fortunate to turn the ball over and clear their lines. Following an infringement by Dinas Powys Chris Fowler send a long ranging penalty deep into the opposition half but the lineout was lost; however, Llantwit somehow managed to regain the ball through a penalty and Chris Fowler duly stepped up and slotted the three points.

Whether it was due to slippery conditions or something else the referee called both captains to one side and asked them to watch the penalty count.

With the ball like the proverbial bar of soap there were a few handling errors that were to be expected. Llantwit gained another penalty and went for touch but again the lineout was lost.

Both sides were eager to play rugby despite the conditions, which is a credit to the Vale sides. Matt Roberts continued with his form and made a break down the left flank but he was isolated and the ball was turned over.

In the second quarter Llantwit took a scrum ball against the head and with a 15 yard drive totally demolished the Dinas 8, which saw the referee rightly award a penalty which Chris Fowler converted.

From the kick off Llantwit secured the ball only for it to be kicked out on the full and put themselves under pressure. Dinas capitalised on this and made their way through for a try that was a result of basic mistakes from the Llantwit side. This meant Dinas went into the halftime break with the lead, 10-6.

The second half started with the same intensity as the first but it was Dinas who were taking the upper hand and in the blink of an eye Llantwit were reduced to 13 men following the sin binning of, first, Stefan Price for an infringement at the ruck and then, from the resultant lineout, Chris Fowler was shown yellow for what was perceived to be a deliberate knock on.

To be fair with the writing on the wall the remaining players gave their all and something extra to keep Dinas out as long as possible but with two men down the inevitable try came which went unconverted to give them the lead, 15-6.

Due to the intensity of the game the 10 minutes of sin bins flew by and both players were back on the pitch.

With a full complement of players now on the field Llantwit took control of the ball and slowly moved upfield. From a lineout the pack mobilised and crashed through line after line of defence and with the old fashioned rolling maul Dinas had no answer and the Llantwit 8 crashed over the line for a try that was attributed to hard working number 8 Rob Carter. This was converted by Chris Fowler.

With the bit between their teeth and a renewed vigour Llantwit seemed to change up a gear and made hard yards with the ball, only to be countered by Dinas.

Through one Dinas attack they spilled the ball which was picked up by Matt Roberts who off-loaded to scrum half Rhys Balmont who seemed to glide over the quagmire for 60 yards before being brought down by the stretched defence who then gave Llantwit a penalty.

Llantwit opted for the kick to touch and initially the ball was secured and the pack started moving forward. However, with the home crowd loudly cheering on the drive, a Dinas player managed to steal the ball and make 10 yards before being brought down and from the resultant ruck the lines were cleared.

The game continued between the two 22 yard lines and with neither team able to make furtherinroads the clocked ticked down and the referee called the game to a halt to the relief of Dinas players and supporters who celebrated like it was a Cup final and to the disappointment of the Llantwit players, coaches and supporters.

As it was a typical derby game the coaches were satisfied that each and every one of the squad had given their all and there was nothing left in the tank.

While defeat was frustrating, the players were reminded that they had just played the unbeaten league leaders and should be satisfied they had done all they could.

This Saturday Llantwit travel to Caerau Ely who currently lie third from bottom but this will count for nothing and Llantwit will need to be at their best to ensure victory.

The bus will leave the club at midday should any supporters wish to travel with the team.

From all involved at the club, from players, coaches and committee, we would like to wish you all a happy New Year.

NE

No action for Cowbridge RFC

THERE was no rugby for Cowbridge RFC last weekend as the 1st XV's game at St Albans was postponed and the youth home game had to be called off as all pitches were waterlogged.

There was some optimism that the youth might have been able to play on the police field once the rain had stopped but further downpours put paid to that.

Let's hope the weather is kinder to us this weekend when the 1sts are home against Taffs Well, who are currently lying eighth in Division 3 East Central A, three places above Cowbridge.

The boys will be looking to start the year with a bang and all support is more than welcome, kick off 2.30pm.

The youth BD team are away to Llandaff North.

Best wishes to everyone for 2015.

RV/RK

COWBRIDGE CRICKET CLUB'S BIG PLANS FOR ANNIVERSARY

COWBRIDGE Cricket Club will be celebrating the 175th anniversary of the club's first recorded fixture in 2015.

The first event will be a special dinner at the Pavilion on April 17 where former Cowbridge, Glamorgan and England player, Hugh Morris, is the principal guest. Charles Dagnall of BBC Test Match Special is also speaking.

May 28 is the date for a golf day to be held at The Vale of Glamorgan Resort.

The cricket highlight will be the visit of MCC to play a special game against Cowbridge on July 24.

On August 9, the President's Lunch will precede the 1840 Cup game against Cowbridge's first opponents, Bridgend.

Commenting on the anniversary year, club president Jeffrey Bird said: "It promises to be great fun. We have lined up the sort of events that will be enjoyed by many.

"If anyone would like to be involved, please call me on 07976 793629."

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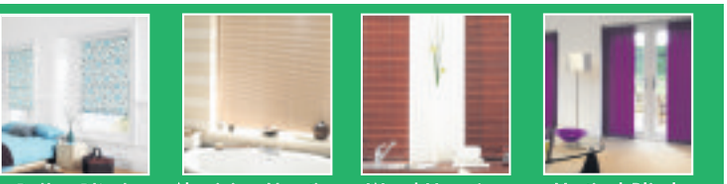

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Development that may affect a Conservation Area/ Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/01258/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Replace existing roof slates to main house
Location:/Lleoliad: 11, Beach Road, Penarth
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth Penarth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/01445/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Demolition of existing two-storey, 1970's house and replacement with a new two-storey dwelling with rooms in the roof, storey and a half extensions to the North and West, and a new storey and a half garage/study outbuilding
Location:/Lleoliad: Stourbridge House, Llysworney
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth Llysworney

Conservation Area Consent/ Caniatâd Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/01458/CAC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Demolition of existing two-storey, 1970's house and replacement with a new two-storey dwelling with rooms in the roof, storey and a half extensions to the North and West, and a new storey and a half garage/study outbuilding
Location:/Lleoliad: Stourbridge House, Llysworney
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth Llysworney

Listed Building Consent/Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/01451/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Repairs and replacement works to clock tower, replacement of lighting protection, rooflights, glazing. Removal of ventilation duct, new access ladder. Replacement of rainwater goods. Repair and repaint ventilation turrets. Repair entrance door. New handrails, tactile paving
Location:/Lleoliad: Hen Goleg Resource Centre, College Fields Close, Barry
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/01469/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Works to existing boundary wall with Plymouth House to incorporate attachment of proposed new dwelling
Location:/Lleoliad: Land adjacent to Plymouth House, West Street, Llantwit Major
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application(s) of General Interest/ Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/01134/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Change of use of redundant stables to self contained holiday let
Location:/Lleoliad: Wallace Fach Cottage, Ewenny Road, Ewenny

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/01245/OUT
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposed erection of 5 local needs houses and 5 four bed houses, an access cul de sac, 2 allotments, a village pond in a public open space
Location:/Lleoliad: Land adjacent to Brook Farm, Llanmaes

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/01424/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Change of use of agricultural land to residential development (C3) including the development of 124 residential dwellings, public open space, landscaping, highway improvements and associated engineering works.
Location:/Lleoliad: Land off St. Brides Road, Wick

Departure from Development Plan/ Gwyro o'r Cynllun Datblygu

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/01245/OUT
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposed erection of 5 local needs houses and 5 four bed houses, an access cul de sac, 2 allotments, a village pond in a public open space
Location:/Lleoliad: Land adjacent to Brook Farm, Llanmaes

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2014/01424/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Change of use of agricultural land to residential development (C3) including the development of 124 residential dwellings, public open space, landscaping, highway improvements and associated engineering works.
Location:/Lleoliad: Land off St. Brides Road, Wick

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Dated / Dyddiedig: 8 January, 2015

M. Goldsworthy
Operational Manager Development & Building Control,
Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

Family Notices

GUILDFORD
Margaret Rose

Peacefully on December 18 at Bellavista Nursing Home, Barry, after a long illness, Margaret of Rhoose (nee Davies of Llantwit Major). Beloved wife of James, dearly loved mother of Matthew and daughter-in-law Suzanne, much loved grandmother of Evelyn and Deri.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Monday January 12, service 2pm at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. No formal attire required, no flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to NSPCC c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

LEER
Alf

Suddenly but peacefully at home, Alf, much loved husband of Joyce, father of Jacquline and Caroline. Loving grandfather and great grandfather.

Will be sadly missed by all family and friends.

Funeral Service at Llanmaes Church on Thursday, January 22nd at 2.30pm, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 3.45pm. Family flowers only, donations in lieu may be sent to Bridgend Diabetic Clinic.

ALLBRIGHTON
Emma

Peacefully on January 4th at UHW Cardiff, Emy of St. Athan, beloved wife of the late Eric, dearly beloved mother of Janet, Linda, Vicky, Paula, Karen, Mark and Teena, much loved grandmother and great grandmother.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Thursday, January 15th. Service 1pm at St. Athan Church, followed by interment in St. Athan Cemetery. Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home.

WEAVER
Susan

Peacefully at College Fields Nursing home on 1st of January. Susan, loving wife of the late David, much loved mother to Darren and Adrian, a loved mother-in-law to Louise and nan to Kelly. Susan will be sadly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Resting at Park Independent Funeral Directors, 7 Tynewydd Road, Barry, until her funeral service on Friday, 16th January at 3pm at the Cardiff and Vale Crematorium, Port Road, Barry.

Flowers welcome, or donations may be made at the service in memory of Susan to Tenovus, Macmillan Cancer Support and Velindre Hospital, following on to the Cherry Orchard, Barry (formerly College Inn).

THOMAS
Elizabeth (Betty)

Formerly of Wick, devoted wife of the late Jim, loving mother to Gareth, mother-in-law to Trisha and nain to Andrew and Simon.

Passed away peacefully after a short illness at Ysbyty Gwynedd, Bangor on 5th January.

In accordance with her wishes, a service will be held in due course at St James' Church, Wick.

MORRIS
Marilyn Jane (Née Bowen)

Suddenly on January 2 at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Jane of High Street, Heol y Cyw; dearly loved wife of Steven, much loved mother of David, Wendy, Julie and Erica, a dear mother-in-law, loving granny to Ricky, Jamie, Kirstie and Ruby and great-granny to all her great-grandchildren, a dear sister, sister-in-law and daughter-in-law.

Will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Funeral Thursday January 15, service and cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 3.15pm. Flowers or donations in lieu may be made to Help for Heroes c/o Mel & Ron Watkins Funeral Services, Graigwen, 12 Pentwyn Road, Pencoed, Bridgend CF35 6SB Tel: 01656 860545.

GRIFFITHS
Ken
(of Marcross)

June, Ann and Kim would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for their support, kind messages of sympathy and attendance at the funeral in such numbers, following the sad loss of Ken.

The family are thankful for the care given to Ken by the GPs of Eryl Surgery and grateful for the generous donations made to the Diabetic Clinic at the Princess of Wales Hospital.

Our sincere thanks also to Reverend Anthony Beer for his unfailing support and for officiating at the Service in Coychurch.

Ken will be forever loved and missed always.

SMITH
Joyce Elizabeth
(nee Durie and formerly Evans)

Passed away peacefully at Llandough Hospital on December 24th, aged 90 years, Joyce of Pontypridd Road, Barry and beloved wife to the late Fred and the late Stanley. Much loved sister of the late John & Marian, aunt of Patricia.

Joyce will be dearly missed by all her family, friends and neighbours.

Resting in the Private Chapel of The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until her service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry on Saturday, 17th January at 11am

No flowers please, donations if desired may be sent to the National Osteoporosis Society, Camerton, Bath, BA2 0PJ.

Funeral arrangements entrusted to Lyndsay Ellis 01446 407962.

HUGHES
Tony

Peacefully on December 23rd, 2014 at The Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, Tony, much loved father of Angharad, Tom and Rob. Grandfather to Mia and Ollie, brother to Bryn, will be sadly missed by all family and friends.

Funeral service at Coychurch Crematorium on Friday, January 16th at 2.45pm. Family flowers only, donations in lieu of flowers may be made to either Y Bwthyn Newydd or Velindre Hospital. Dress smart casual please.

BROWN
Rita Elizabeth (nee Jenkins)

Peacefully after a short illness on 3rd January in the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, Rita aged 81 years of Aberthin, Cowbridge. Devoted wife of the late Graham Brown (former owner of W.A. Brown and Son, Funeral Directors in Llantwit Major). Loving mother to Julie, Caroline and Andrew and a much loved granny to Jonathan, Leah, Rhys and Owen.

Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, Pembroke House, Llantwit Major until the service at Coychurch Crematorium on Tuesday, 20th January at 2.15pm. Cut flowers please may be sent to the funeral home.

WILLMOT
Trevor John
(Formerly of St Athan)

Passed away peacefully on 6th December at his home in Stirling, Scotland, aged 79. Beloved husband of the late Liz, dearly loved father of David, Catherine and Rachel and a much loved grandfather of his eight grandchildren.

The funeral service was held in Scotland on 18th December and the family would like to thank all friends and relatives who attended, and for all the cards and messages of sympathy received.

BIRD
Eric Osborne

Suddenly, but peacefully after a long illness, Eric, much loved husband of Judith, loving father of Simon and Sara, grampy of Samuel.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Tuesday January 13, service 2pm at All Saints Church, Park Road, Barry, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 3pm. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to Cerebral Vasculitis Research c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

LEWIS
David

Passed away peacefully on January 4 at Y Bwthyn Newydd, Princess of Wales Hospital, David aged 76 years of Islawen Meadows, Pencoed; beloved husband of Yolande, dearest dad of Michelle and Stephen, loving gramps to Graham, Kim, Sophie and Alexander, cherished great-gramps to Oliver, Emma and Bump.

He will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Funeral Tuesday January 20, service and cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 1.15pm. Family flowers only, donations in lieu may be made to Y Bwthyn Newydd c/o Mel & Ron Watkins Funeral Services, Graigwen, 12 Pentwyn Road, Pencoed, Bridgend CF35 6SB Tel: 01656 860545.

HARRIS
Jillian

Much loved daughter of Elsie, a fabulous sister, sister-in-law and aunt. A resident of Quarry Cottage in recent years, and member of Scope and the Monday Club.

A fun-loving friend to so many in her home town of Cowbridge. Thanks are extended for condolences received and funeral details will be advised.

KING
Jonathan Alan

Suddenly on 28th December at his home in Redwick (Nr. Pilning). Jonathan Alan, devoted husband of Gillian, dearly loved youngest son of Muriel and the late Alan (formerly of Bert King Builders Merchants, Barry). Dear brother of Paul and brother-in-law to Ruth, and a loving uncle to his nieces and nephews and a dear friend to all that knew him. He will be sadly missed. Funeral arrangements to be advised.

STYCH
Donald Ivan

Passed away suddenly but peacefully on 23rd December 2014 aged 89 years at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend. Survived by his beloved wife Doreen with whom he recently celebrated 65 years of marriage, and sadly missed by his daughters Carol and Patricia and their partners Steve and Anthony. Much loved grandfather of Wayne, Cathy, Steven, Nicola and Jonathan and six great grandchildren.

Funeral service will be held on Wednesday 14th January 2015 at St James Church, Wick at 10.45am followed by a committal service at Coychurch Crematorium at 12 noon. Family flowers only but donations if desired to Parkinson's UK. All enquiries to JR & MF David, St Brides Major on 01656 895068.

FRANCIS
May

Peacefully at College Fields Nursing Home, Barry on January 2nd, May of Barry Island. Dearly beloved wife of the late Leonard, much loved mum of Pam and Jeff, mother-in-law of Kevin and Lorraine, adored nan to all her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son, Tynewydd Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until her funeral service in the chapel on Friday, January 16th at 11am, followed by cremation at the Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 12 noon. Family flowers only but donations in lieu to Marie Curie (Holme Tower) Bridgeman Road, Penarth, CF64 3YR.

PILCHER
Ronald Michael

Peacefully on December 5th at The Waverley Care Centre, Penarth. Ron, beloved husband of the late Gwyneth, much loved dad of Michael, David, Tony, Martin and their families, loving brother of Marg & Joan.

Ronald will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Resting in the private chapel of The Vale Funeral Home, 181 Court Road, Barry until his service at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend on Friday, 16th January at 9.30am. No flowers please, donations if desired may be made at the service to The RAF Benevolent Fund in memory of Ron. Funeral arrangements entrusted to Lyndsay Ellis 01446 407962.

WENSLEY
Stephen

Passed away peacefully on the 2nd January, 2015 at Morriston Hospital after a long illness.

Aged 61, Stephen was the beloved husband of Helen, a devoted father to Philip and Claire, father-in-law to Eve and the much loved grandfather of Celyn and Bethan. He will be sorely missed by his loving brother John, all family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until the funeral on the 14th January. A service and cremation will be held at Barry Crematorium where all family and friends are invited to meet at 2pm.

Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, may be handed to the Funeral Director after the funeral for Velindre Cancer Centre, Cardiff.

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Birth Notices

WALDRON-KELLY
(nee Aynge)
Congratulations Michelle and Barri on the safe arrival of our granddaughter Elena Raine born December 23rd.
Love Chris, Christine, Julie, John, Jackie, Sandra & Gavin xx

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Birthday Notices

Happy Birthday
Philip Irwin
on the 8th January
Best wishes from all your friends at the GEM

JULIE AYNGE
Congratulations
on your 40th Birthday on January 11th
Love Mum, Dad, Michelle, Barri, Elena Raine, Abi, Milo, Marley & Missy xxx

JORDAN STANDING (JORDIE)
Happy 17th Birthday
on 14 January
'he best son I could have shed for - don't ever change. Love always Mum xxx

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Telephone 07855 374 478

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56 **SUBARU TriBeca B9 Automatic 3.0 Litre 7-Seater 4x4** In met grey with grey leather 58,000 miles **£7,495**
60 **FORD Fiesta 1.2 Zetec 5-Dr** In silver, 36,000 miles, a/c, alloys, c/d **£6,995**
59 **FORD Focus 1.6 Zetec 5-Dr** In silver, 36,000 miles, very nice example at **£6,495**
10 **SKODA Fabia 1.4 TDi Estate** In silver, 50,000 miles, low running costs **£5,995**
59 **SKODA Octavia 1.9 Diesel SE Estate.** In silver, 75,000 miles, nice example **£5,995**
58 **CITROEN C5 2.0 VTR+ Auto.** In met blue, 39,000 miles, fantastic value at **£5,995**
57 **MERCEDES C180K Coupe 'Sport Edition' Auto** In blue-black metallic, 80,000 miles **£5,995**
58 **FORD FIESTA 1.4 Diesel Titanium (New Model) 5-Dr.** Lime metallic, 64,000 miles **£5,795**
60 **VAUXHALL Meriva 1.1SE (New Model).** Silver, 55,000 miles, pan roof, alloys etc. **£5,695**
10 **RENAULT Megane 1.6 Dynamique.** In electric blue, 49,000 mile family hatch **£5,695**
59 **RENAULT Clio 1.2 Extreme 3-Dr** In black, 36,000 miles, low insurance **£5,695**
62 **PEUGEOT 107 Active** In red, 21,000 miles, free road tax, 1 owner **£5,495**
58 **FORD Fiesta 1.2 Zetec 3-Dr.** In black, 64,000 miles with parking sensor **£5,495**
08 **NISSAN Note 1.4 Acenta.** In electric blue, 39,000 miles, alloys, a/c, c/d **£5,495**
08 **VAUXHALL Zafira 1.9 Diesel Automatic Exclusive.** In met blue, 61,000 mile 7 seater **£5,495**
08 **VW Golf 1.4 'S' 5-Dr** In met blue, 79,000 miles, a/c etc, ideal family hatch at **£5,495**
08 **TOYOTA Yaris 1.4 Diesel SR D4D 5-Dr** In met grey, 71,000 miles, sat-nav, 1 owner **£5,495**
10 **SMART Fortwo Pulse MHD 1.0 Convertible** In black, 31,000 miles, £20 road tax **£4,995**
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58 **RENAULT Clio Dynamique 1.2 Estate** In silver, 60,000 miles with a/c, alloys **£4,995**
58 **RENAULT Clio 1.5 Diesel Dynamique 5-Dr** In black, 71,000 miles, 1 owner, £30 road tax **£4,995**
08 **RENAULT Clio 1.2 Dynamique 5-Dr (100)** In black, 50,000 miles, 2 owners **£4,995**
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09 **PEUGEOT 207 1.4 Diesel 'S' 5-Dr** In silver, 63,000 miles, low road tax **£4,995**
08 **FORD Focus 1.6 Zetec 5-Dr** In met-blue, 61,000 miles with a/c etc **£4,995**
57 **HYUNDAI i130 Style 2.0 Diesel 5-Dr** In silver, 72,000 miles, nice example **£4,995**
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09 **VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 Club 5-Dr** In black, 39,000 miles with a/c **£4,695**
58 **PEUGEOT 207 1.4 Diesel 'S' 5-Dr** In met turquoise, 55,000 miles **£4,695**
56 **SEAT Toledo 2.0 TDi Stylance Automatic.** In black, 61,000 mile diesel at **£4,695**
53 **MERCEDES SLK 200 6-Speed** In silver, 89,000 mile convertable at **£4,695**
55 **VW Golf 1.6 'S' Automatic 5-Dr** In met-blue, 79,000 miles, a/c etc **£4,495**
07 **FORD Focus 1.8 Zetec 5-Dr.** In ice blue, 47,000 miles with a/c, alloys etc **£4,395**
09 **PEUGEOT 207 1.4s VTi** In met turquoise, 59,000 miles with a/c **£4,295**
08 **MAZDA 2 1.4 TS2 3-Dr.** In black, 59,000 miles, alloys, a/c etc **£4,295**
08 **SEAT Ibiza 1.4 Sport 3-Dr** In met grey, 52,000 miles, 1 owner **£4,295**
57 **TOYOTA Yaris 1.3 TR 5-Dr** In black, 64,000 miles, a/c alloys **£4,295**
07 **VAUXHALL Vectra Exclusive CDTi H/back Auto** In silver **£4,295**
54 **MINI Cooper.** In electric blue/black roof, nice specification, good looking mini at **£4,295**
58 **CITROEN C2 1.6 Code** In met grey with tan leather trim, 51,000 miles **£3,995**
57 **SEAT Ibiza 1.2 Reference 5-Dr** In met grey 53,000 miles **£3,995**
07 **SEAT Ibiza 1.4 Diesel Reference Sport 3-Dr** In red, 79,000 miles **£3,995**
55 **FORD Fiesta 1.4 Diesel Zetec 5-Dr** In red, 42,000 miles, a/c, £30 road tax **£3,995**
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62 PEUGEOT 107 Active
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£5,495

CITROEN C5 VTR Plus 2.0 Petrol Automatic
Blue, 39,148 miles
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Met grey with grey leather, 58,000 miles
£7,495

10 SMART Fortwo Pulse MHD Convertible
Black, 31,000 miles, £20 road tax
£4,995

59 SKODA Octavia 1.9 Diesel SE Estate
In Silver, 75,000 miles, nice example
£5,995

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IN Wales today, steeplechase fixtures take place at Chepstow, Ffos Las and Bangor-on-Dee.

However, Wrights Book of Steeplechasing for 1844 lists 151 jumps fixtures and in Wales these were at Abergavenny, Aberystwyth, Breconshire, Monmouth, Monmouthshire Hunt, Newport, Oswestry, Swansea, Wrexham and Welshpool.

Cardiff's Ely Racecourse, home of the Welsh Grand National from 1895 until 1939, followed shortly afterwards. This is how Ruffs Guide to the Turf of 1867 described the racecourse at Bridgend – "Bridgend is situated on Ogmore Down and is somewhat in the form of a figure six. The soil is sandy", while the racecourse at Monmouth was "a circular course under the walls of the town, of a little more than six furlongs round and is quite flat".

Wrexham "is flat and oval" and Cardiff "is nearly an oval course of a mile and 52 yards, with a straight run-in of a quarter of a mile, perfectly flat, over well drained land and the whole course can be seen from the stand".

For natural beauty few of these old racecourses could surpass the one at Cowbridge where, from the slopes of Penllyn Castle, thousands would gather for the Glamorgan Hunt Steeplechases. This meeting was regarded as the 'Derby Day of south Wales'.

The Cowbridge Steeplechases brought large numbers of spectators to the town in all sorts of conveyances. Bunting was strung up in the High Street adding to the carnival atmosphere and the Great Western and Taff Railway laid on special trains of 18 carriages.

It was at Cowbridge that Sir Harry Llewellyn, of Foxhunter fame, rode his first winner in 1930 while the First Viscount Lord Tredegar, whose equestrian statue stands in front of Cardiff's City Hall, won the principal race there on Sir Briggs, his celebrated charger at the Battle of Balaclava in the Crimean War.

An even odder winner there was a mare called Maid of Killarney, belonging to an Irishman, Tim Donovan, a Cardiff rag and bone man. She raced everything on the road to Cowbridge and won the principal steeplechase after all the other runners had refused at the open ditch!

The Glamorgan, Llangeinor and Pentyrch Hunts all held their annual point-to-point races at Penllyn in the 1950s and 60s and it was there that I began my career as a race reporter for The Sporting Life and Horse & Hound.

HOOF NOTE

A correspondent writing to the Western Mail on April 20,1922 had this to say: "It is common knowledge among racegoers that a great deal of 'pulling' is going on at nearly all the meetings, and it is with great difficulty that horses are held back." In fact, it was so bad that even the bookmakers threatened to go on strike!

But sharp practices on the turf were not the reasons for the demise of so many small country meetings. This came about in 1899 when the Jockey Club introduced new and enlarged rules which put the sport under their complete control.

They imposed minimum prize money rules which some meetings could not afford because they were held on common land and could not charge entry fees.

EVAN'S 'NATIONAL HOPE' FIGHTS FOR LIFE

Sad news is that One In A Milan trained by Evan Williams at Llancarfan is fighting for his life after suffering a crashing fall in the recent Coral Welsh Grand National at Chepstow.

Evan said: "He had a career-ending injury at Chepstow and we are fighting to keep him alive." He added: "He's fractured a bone at the back of the knee and he's in a bad state of affairs. He won't run again and we'll know in the coming weeks whether we've managed to keep him alive."

The 10-year-old One In A Milan, which had finished fourth in the 2013 renewal, came to grief at the eighth fence and Evan said: "It would be great if we could save him because he's a lovely horse."

In one of the closest finishes to the Coral Welsh Grand National, Venetia Williams's Emperor's Choice beat Paul Nicholls's Benvolio by a short head in a photo-finish.

You can e-mail your news or views to brianlee4@virginiamedia.com or phone him on 02920736438.

BRIAN LEE

Bridgend bridge

THE results for Bridgend Bridge Club:

Friday, January 2 - First, Jenny Vaughan and Irene Thomas; Second, Steve Burgoyne and Bill Turner; Third, Glyn Williams and Irene Wickham. Winners on handicap Teresa Griffiths and Linda Jenkins.

Regular club nights take place on Wednesday and Fridays at Nolton Church Hall at 7pm. The aim is to commence play at 7pm so it helps if people arrive at least 10 minutes early.

On Thursdays from 2pm to 5pm, also at Nolton Church Hall, there are gentle bridge sessions for the less experienced bridge players where assistance if readily available.

There are lessons on Thursday mornings at 11am with John Evans, also at Nolton Church Hall - these are primarily for beginners and those who have played some bridge and who would like to improve either or both their bidding or card play.

For further information contact John on 01656 880372.

DN

Wheelchair rugby team want players

WALES Wheelchair Rugby League would like to develop a database of eligible players playing anywhere in the UK.

This database will be used to inform players about upcoming training and events and will give the Wales coaches the chance to attend games where they know there will be a number of Welsh eligible players playing.

To be included in this database please email the below to Mark A Jones (MAJ), Wales wheelchair team manager at maj.jones58@yahoo.co.uk with your name, club (any sport), contact number, preferred email, any previous representative experience and eligibility.

The side are looking for any player who would like to have the opportunity of playing Wheelchair Rugby League.

This includes, but it is not limited to, those who may have played wheelchair rugby or wheelchair basketball.

There are a number of differences between this game and wheelchair rugby. In wheelchair rugby league, a rugby ball is used, players can't pass forwards, they have to put the ball down for a try and they take kick-offs, penalties, conversions and drop-goals with their fists, the first three from an elevated tee and the drop by bouncing the ball before trying to fist it over the posts.

IG

Bridge results

RESULTS for the Vale of Glamorgan Bridge club for January 5:

1st Irene Thomas & Graham Jones 59.23%, 2nd= Steve Burgoyne & John Evans 55.52%, Phil & Lou Edwards 55.52%.

LE

NEW YEAR'S SWIM ON THE ISLAND

PHOTOS by ANDY WICKS
Telephone 07855 374 478

PEOPLE flocked to Barry Island on New Year's Day – some to swim, some to stay wrapped up and witness the 'madness'.

Whether people were participants or spectators, they enjoyed the friendly atmosphere.

Here, Andy Wicks captures some of the spirit – and moments – of the day.

Roll on New Year's Day 2016...

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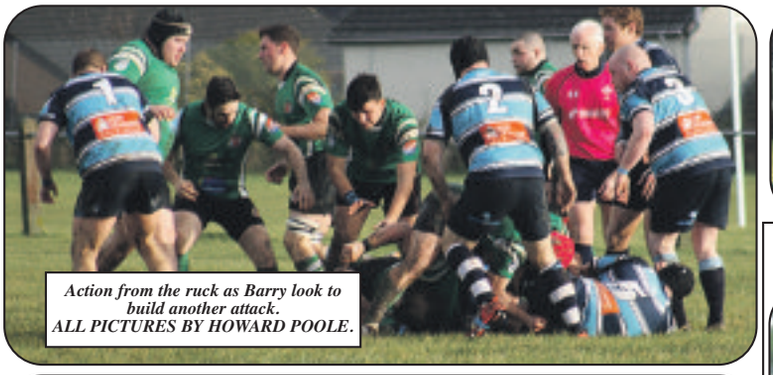
BARRY RFC FIRSTS CRUISE TO WIN OVER BOGEY TEAM LLANDAFF



Action from the ruck as Barry look to build another attack. ALL PICTURES BY HOWARD POOLE.

It was a grey day weather-wise but not for Barry, who earned a win against their bogey team.

BARRY RFC returned to league action after the festive period with their visitors Llandaff, who have been their bogey team of recent seasons.

With the weather damp and inclement it was no surprise that the game began with a series of high balls as both sides tried to test the other team out.

In the opening exchanges Barry gained the upper hand and from that territory Einan Scott put the home side into the lead with a well-struck penalty.

Barry were proving to be stronger in the scrum but the visitors held the upper hand in the line-out. Knowing that they had to put the hosts under early pressure, Llandaff duly obliged with a series of forward drives and from one such maul they found themselves in the lead with a well-worked converted try.

Barry awoke from their slumber, having realised their opponents' game plan, and with Lee and Scott directing matters, conducted a series of raids via their back-line. Further pressure yielded another penalty for Scott who reduced the deficit to one.

Barry now had a firm foothold in the game and when captain Hywel Jones broke through from halfway, the ball was recycled off the floor by Tiernan Scott, finding Brad White who finished superbly in the corner. Scott failed to add the extras.

Scott and his opposite kicker would swap penalties just before the break to leave the score 14-13 to the home side at the interval, and with the slope to their favour after the break, Barry would come out looking for more tries to potentially seal that bonus point.

Llandaff would try to mix things up early in the second half by bringing on a spate of substitutes, but it was Barry who laid siege to the away line.

After several unsuccessful close range opportunities, it was instead a break from their own half that saw the next score, with Tomos Perry throwing an outrageous dummy before grounding in the corner. Scott failed with the conversion.

Barry continued to press and sensed their opportunity when the away side were reduced to 14 men, but in that 10 minutes the green-and-whites only managed a solitary penalty.

With the bonus point seemingly slipping away the home side mounted a grandstand finale for the last 10 minutes, and when Llandaff received a second sin-binning Barry took full advantage.

After good work in the tight by the Barry forwards, Perry burst through to score under the posts, with the conversion a formality, justly rewarding the home side's territorial dominance in the second half.

Within minutes Barry had the vital fourth try for the bonus point. A bulldozing run from Alyn Evans set the platform for a neat exchange on the wing between Danny Ryan and White, and the latter raced through for his 12th try of the season. Scott failed to add the extras.

There was still time for the introduction of James Sullivan into the proceedings, and the replacement prop demolished the Llandaff scrum in their own feed, and when the ball was spread to the left wing again, Perry was on hand to complete his hat-trick – his second in as many games. Scott rounded off the scoring by converting the try, the final score 43-13.

It was an impressive second half display by Barry in difficult conditions, and the players and management alike should be congratulated for their hard work on the training pitch which is now reflected in the results.

The First XV travel to Old Illtydians this weekend, while the Second XV travel to Cardiff Harlequins.

Team: T Scott; White, Perry, Provis, Ryan; E Scott, Lee; Evans, Vidal, Hollister; G Jones, Giddings; Goodfellow, O Poole, H Jones ©. Replacements: Sullivan, Oaten, L Jones, Gallivan, T Poole. Man of the match: H Jones. **KC**

The Barry team line up before the game.

Under-10s are looking smart

Island Marine under-10s started their 2014/15 season in style with new playing kits sponsored by thinkvans.com. The boys and girls from the squad would like to thank their sponsor for the donation, as this represents the last of the re-branding for the club from mini football through to senior level.

Penarth Hockey Seconds maintain unbeaten run

PENARTH Hockey Club's Second XI will get the return leg of their Davis Wood Hockey League campaign under way this weekend looking to continue a four-game unbeaten streak.

The enlarged De Cymru 2 division ensured a late finish to part one of the seconds' season, with a trip to the Neath valleys for a mid-table clash with the local side.

Once again without a recognised goalkeeper, the team knew that a strong defensive effort would be required to remain in contention for the full 70 minutes but, led by James Davies, produced a committed first half performance that left debutant Lewis Harrison with very little to do between the sticks.

Despite seemingly being able to push forward at will, Penarth again suffered their usual profligacy in front of goal, with the frustration gradually seeping back into their build-up play, which drifted from constructive passing to 'hit-and-hope' long balls and allowed the home defence to become more comfortable.

Harrison having to pull off one sharp save from a Neath penalty corner appeared to be a wake-up call to Penarth, who regrouped for one last push before the break, and were rewarded when Tom Parkinson slid in bravely to convert a Dave Watkins cross under pressure from the home goalkeeper.

While going into the interval one goal to the good was a boost for the visitors, they knew it would not be enough to see off a determined home side, and Neath underlined the threat with a reply shortly after the resumption of play. A second goal, which flew between the heads of Harrison and another defender, turned the game on its head, and left Penarth trailing largely against the run of play.

Buoyed by their comeback, Neath began to exert greater pressure on the visitors' goal, where Harrison belied his complete lack of goalkeeping experience by pulling off some impressive saves to keep his side in the match.

With the hosts going for the kill and Penarth looking for a late equaliser, the final period of the game became the most open of all, with play switching quickly from end to end. It was the visitors who had the final say, however, with Watkins converting from a tight angle to bring the scores level and ensure what was probably the right result for both sides.

A second successive 2-2 draw on the back of wins over Whitchurch and Bridgend ensured that Penarth went into the Christmas break unbeaten in four games – a personal record of late – but hostilities resume a week earlier than normal with a home game against another mid-table rival, Llanishen & Caerphilly 'B' this weekend.

The sides ground out a rare 0-0 draw earlier in the season, but know that full points will be vital to kick-start the second half of the season. The 1st XI remains on hiatus for another week before hosting Cardiff & Met 'C' on January 17.

Penarth Hockey Club always welcomes new, old and returning players, umpires, supporters, friends and helpers regardless of age and ability.

Training takes place on the artificial turf at Barry Sport Centre every Wednesday, with the juniors in action between 6-7pm and seniors between 7-8pm.

Further information can be obtained from: club secretary Dave Stevens via d_stevens81@hotmail.co.uk.

CL

SULLY BRIDGE CLUB RESULTS

MONDAY, December 29:

North/South - 1st Peter Millar/Trish Tracy 76.19, 2nd Judy Collins/Janet Cunnington 66.96, 3rd Pat Evans/Jayne Greatrex 58.33.

East/West - 1st Ann Hurst/Mike Hurst 58.04, 2nd Italo Basiletti/Ann Hilary Jones 54.76, 3rd Jane Brook/Hilary Morgan 53.27.

Wednesday, December 31:

North/South - 1st Charles Johns/Carol Cochlin 59.52, 2nd Ev Kerslake/Vernon Pearn 58.63, 3rd Celia Thomas/Huw Thomas 56.85.

East/West - 1st Mary Cartwright/Pat Verdon 63.10, 2nd Jane Greatrex/John Pikoulis 55.65, 3rd Maureen McCarthy/Phyllis Milner 53.27.

Saturday, January 3:

North/South - 1st Peter Millar/Trish Tracy 67.19, 2nd Hazel Craig/Peter Craig 60.94, 3rd Peter Blackwell/Mary Blackwell 60.94.

EK

Atoms blow away Dinas Powys

BARRY Atoms went to Dinas and erased the disappointment of last season with a comprehensive win.

Atoms started off with a try by Rory, converted by Cai. Dinas responded with a try of their own after some slack tackling but tries by Zak and Fin put the Atoms back in control, only for Dinas to come back again with another try.

In the second half Barry controlled the game and the forwards came into their own. Rory scored twice, then Harry finished off a wonderful team move.

Rory popped up again with another try, converted by Daf, and Jack Long then powered his way through to cap off a fine game.

The game was played in good spirit against a side that gave their all and were a handful - well done boys.

DD